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# Midfommer Nights Dreame

Variant Edition



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Variant Edition

# SHAKESPEARE



A

## MIDSOMMER NIGHTS DREAME

FACSIMILE REPRINT OF THE TEXT OF THE  
FIRST FOLIO, 1623

*With Foot-Notes giving every Variant in Spelling and  
Punctuation occurring in the two Quartos of 1600,  
according to the perfect Copies of the Original  
Texts in the Barton Collection,  
Boston Public Library*

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

HENRY JOHNSON



BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
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## Preface.

THE present edition of *A Midsummer nights Dreame* has been prepared with a view to assist in putting the study of this Shakespearian text on a more permanent basis than is commonly laid. It gives the original material in full, including every variation in spelling and punctuation of the two editions of the play published in Shakespeare's life-time, from the First Folio text. The latter has been used as the principal text for its having been the last which may have had the benefit of Shakespeare's manuscript authority.

While there will always be a place for conjectural emendation, the necessity for it is constantly diminishing with every advance in the knowledge of Elizabethan English.

Why should not the study of Shakespeare, at least in universities, begin with putting into the student's hands all the textual facts? Of course the student will never cease to need more help than the best teacher and all the commentators can give. This edition will be useful only if the supposition is correct, that teacher and student should be first concerned with what Shakespeare wrote, as far as the authoritative original texts enable us to judge. And it seems too much to assume that the grounds on which a word or a phrase is generally rejected as not Shakespeare's are either so profound or so delicate as to be beyond the judgment of any student. Whoever rejects the "Now bent" of I. 1. 10 must do so on other grounds than that it is less beautiful or apt than Rowe's emendation, "New-bent." The notes include every variation from the texts of Fisher, Roberts, and the Folio which the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions agree in adopting. For the source of these changes I am indebted to the Cambridge edition; I have, of course, verified the references whenever it has been

possible for me to do so. In all these editions the spelling and punctuation have been modernized throughout. Many stage-directions, which were deemed dispensable by the seventeenth-century editors, have been introduced into nearly all modern editions.

It is my agreeable duty to express my cordial thanks to Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, Librarian of the Boston Public Library, for facilities in the consultation of the Shakespearian treasures in his custody; also to Mr. Arthur Mason Knapp, Librarian of Bates Hall, Boston Public Library, for courteous assistance.

BRUNSWICK, MAINE, *October, 1887.*

## Introduction.

I. DATE OF COMPOSITION.—Of the earliest known reference to *A Midsummer nights Dreame*, Halliwell-Phillipps, in his indispensable Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare, Seventh Edition, Longmans, London, 1887, II, 148, writes as follows: “The following extracts [including other references to Shakespeare besides the allusion to the present play] are from a treatise entitled ‘A comparative Discourse of our English poets with the Greeke, Latine and Italian poets,’ which is near the end of a thick little volume called ‘*Palladis Tamia. Wits Treasury, being the Second part of Wits Commonwealth. By Francis Meres, Maister of Artes of both Universities. Viuitur ingenio, cætera mortis erunt.—At London.—Printed by P. Short for Cuthbert Burbie, and are to be solde at his shop at the Royall Exchange, 1598.*’ There can be no doubt that this chapter was written in the summer of 1598, the work itself having been entered at Stationers’ Hall on the 7th of September in that year, and there being in the Discourse a notice of Marston’s Satires registered on the previous 27th of May.”

The reference to the present play is as follows: “As *Plautus* and *Seneca* are accounted the best for Comedy and Tragedy among the Latines: so *Shakespeare* among y<sup>e</sup> English is the most excellent in both kinds for the stage; for Comedy, witnes his *Getleme of Verona*, his *Errors*, his *Loue labors lost*, his *Loue labours wonne*, his *Midsummers night dreame*, and his *Merchant of Venice*: for Tragedy his *Richard the 2. Richard the 3. Henry the 4. King Iohn, Titus Andronicus* and his *Romeo and Juliet.*”

The year 1598 is consequently a date before which the play must have been written. With this limitation, the actual date of composition is as yet a matter of pure conjecture, based on considerations of plot, style, rhythm, etc., or on imaginable

allusions to events of recent occurrence. Moreover, the play may have been composed in honor of a marriage, and on this as a principal ground has been supposed to have been written as early as in 1590, the year of the marriage of Essex. This is the year to which it is ascribed in the English Philological Society's Dictionary, *s. v. Abridgment*. Perhaps the most generally preferred date of composition is 1594.

II. THE FIRST EDITION.—The first edition was published in 1600 by Thomas Fisher, with the following title-page:—

A  
Midsummer nights  
dreame.

As it hath beene sundry times pub-  
*licly acted, by the Right honoura-  
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his  
seruants.*

*Written by William Shakespeare.*

[Publisher's device.]

¶ Imprinted at London, for *Thomas Fisher*, and are to  
be foulde at his shoppes, at the Signe of the White Hart,  
in *Fleetstreete*. 1600.

This title-page and that of the second edition according to the Barton copies were published in facsimile among the illustrations in Mr. Justin Winsor's *Shakespeare Bibliography*, Boston, 1876. Mr. Winsor states that at that date, 1876, the Barton copy was the only one of the first edition in the United States. This continues to be the case.

Every student of Shakespeare is grateful for the publication of facsimiles in photo-lithography of the first and second editions of this play, with introductions by J. W. Ebsworth, M. A., which were issued in London, 1880, in the series of *Shakspere Quarto Facsimiles*, executed under the superintendence of F. J. Furnivall, M. A., Ph. D. The Fisher

quarto facsimile was made up from photographs of two copies, that of the Duke of Devonshire being used for fifty-five pages, and that of Mr. Alfred H. Huth for the other eight, deficient in the duke's copy. The perfect Barton copy shows many more variations from this facsimile than one would look for, even in a book of that period. In some eighty-one cases I have noted the absence of a punctuation-mark or a letter from the facsimile while it would be plainly present in the Barton copy; as, for instance, in I. 1. 21, where the Barton copy has "*thee?*" and the facsimile "*thee*". In some sixty-one instances, where the facsimile might leave one in doubt as to the reading of the quarto, in such slight details as confusion of *f* and *s* or *r* and *t*, I find the Barton copy to furnish plainly the reading which would naturally be assumed to exist. In almost every case of this sort there can be no possible ambiguity as to the author's intention. This absence of doubt is also true in most cases of the lacking punctuation-marks and letters in the facsimile. There are also a few manifestly intentional corrections of the type during the course of the printing of the original edition.

The Fisher quarto (F) was entered in the Stationers' Register as follows:—

[A. D. 1600.] 8 Octobris.

Thomas ffyssher Entred for his Copie vnder the handes of master RODES / and the Wardens, A booke called *A Myd-sommer nightes Dreame*. . . . vj<sup>d</sup><sup>1</sup>

It was published in the same year, and consists of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page, excepting in the case of leaves G and G<sub>2</sub>, which have on each of the four pages thirty-four lines. The Duke of Devonshire's copy of the Roberts quarto has B<sub>1</sub> *verso* and B<sub>2</sub> *recto* printed from the identical forms which served for the same pages of the Fisher quarto. These pages, not being *recto* and *verso* of one leaf, cannot have been inserted in the copy. They prove the priority of the Fisher quarto, in which these pages are uniform in individualities of spelling with all the others, while they are conspicu-

<sup>1</sup> From Prof. Arber's *Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers, etc.*, III. 174, as quoted in the Fisher facsimile, page v, above referred to.

ously different from all the others in the Roberts quarto. The Barton copy of the Roberts quarto does not show this peculiarity, but has the two pages referred to quite uniform in spelling with the rest of the Roberts text. The copy used by the Cambridge editors was like the Barton.

This proves that there were at least two issues of the Roberts quarto. The punctuation of the Fisher quarto is careful, and, being manifestly rhetorical, if I may term it so, rather than grammatical, can never be ignored in the interpretation of the text.

III. THE SECOND EDITION. — The second edition (R) was not entered in the Stationers' Register. It was published in the same year as the first, with the following title-page : —

A  
Mid sommer nights  
dreame.

As it hath beene fundry times pub-  
*likely aefled, by the Right Honoura-  
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his  
seruants.*

*Written by William Shakespeare.*

[Printer's device.]

*Printed by James Roberts, 1600.*

It consists likewise of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page. It corresponds with F, page for page to a word, though not line for line, excepting in the cases of leaves G and G<sub>2</sub> which are set up, presumably by oversight, a line short in F. With the last line of G<sub>3</sub> *recto* the uniformity with F is restored.

Although the identity of B *verso* and B<sub>2</sub> *recto* in R (Duke of Devonshire's copy) and F does not prove that Roberts was the printer of F, it shows, nevertheless, that he *may* have been, and so may have had access to the MS. which was used for F.

Almost the only improvements in R over F are typographi-

cal, consisting mainly in corrections of some twelve or fifteen misprints, none of them less obvious than that of I. 1. 4, *wanes* for *waves* in F. In one place, V. 1. 7-9, the alignment is corrected. Mention is made in the Notes of a few cases in which R has the appearance of having done more than correct the printer's errors in F; yet the ground of these changes may have been in the context only.

R changed freely the spelling and punctuation of F, and made frequent substitution of one word or phrase for another, with the result of mere variation in form, and not in sense.

R is not printed with nearly as great care as F. Cases of inferiority are numerous throughout the text. The facsimile of R in the Shakspere Quarto Facsimile series, above referred to, shows a much closer likeness of the Duke of Devonshire's copy, from which the photographs were taken, to the Barton copy than was the case in the copies of F. There are only about twenty instances of seemingly lacking punctuation-marks or of like relatively insignificant variations, and some twenty-five cases in which the facsimile shows defective or doubtful punctuation or letters; as, for instance, in IV. 1. 182, *worne* as against *worne*, in the Barton copy. There are at present six copies of the original Roberts quarto in the United States, located or owned as follows:—

Boston Public Library, Barton Collection.

Mr. Theodore Irwin, Oswego, N. Y.

Mr. Charles H. Kalbfleisch, New York.

Lenox Library, New York.

Mr. N. Q. Pope, Brooklyn.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Through the uniform kindness of the custodians or owners I have ascertained that these copies are all of the second issue.

IV. THE THIRD EDITION.—The third edition of the play consisted of pages 145-162 in the division of Comedies in the First Folio, 1623. This first collective edition of Shakespeare's plays adopted the Roberts text of the present play. It continues many obvious blunders of R, while its corrections of R and agreement with F are with rare exceptions plainly such as any intelligent reader could make.

The First Folio was reprinted with marvellous accuracy by

Lionel Booth, London, 1862-4. My collation of this reprint with the Barton copy did not result in the detection of a single variation except in the wholly insignificant case of IV. 1. 75, *Queene* for *Queene* in the Barton copy. As a matter of curiosity I note that the Barton copy and the Booth reprint agree in the misprinting of III. 1. 124, *with*, with inverted *i*, as against *with* in Staunton's Lithographic Facsimile of the First Folio, London, 1866; likewise in III. 2. 138, *my*, as against *my* in Staunton. These microscopic variations probably exist in the originals.

## Notes.

THE division of the text *into scenes*, in the present edition, is that adopted by modern editors, almost without exception.

The *line-numbers* of the parts of the play in verse are those of the metrical, and not of the typographical, arrangement. The lines of the parts in prose are numbered according to the printing of the First Folio which is facsimiled in this edition.

The three texts are identical in spelling, punctuation, and alignment except so far as the foot-notes show the contrary. It seemed useless, however, to include such a variation as the abbreviation *Hyp.* for *Hip.* when the same personage is unmistakably referred to in the three texts.

F stands for Fisher quarto.

R stands for Roberts quarto.

R\* stands for " " facsimile, Shakspere Quarto Facsimiles, London, 1880.

<sup>28</sup> FR3 indicates that F and R begin their third page with the twenty-third line. The title-page is numbered 1, the reverse of it is blank, the next printed page, that of the opening of the play, 2, and so on.

[145<sup>1</sup>] indicates the page and column in the First Folio.

;! F : R indicates that the ; is replaced by an ! in F and by a : in R.

-]om. F indicates that the hyphen is omitted, and that the words or parts of words so connected in the Folio are printed as one word in F. When a hyphen is in the Folio and the words are printed as two in F or R, they are so written in the foot-notes.

/ marks the end of a line.

is : / F is. / R indicates that the metrical line referred to is printed as a single line in F and R ending as shown.

The dates of the principal older editions of Shakespeare, and of such recent ones as are referred to in the notes, are :—

1632 Second Folio.  
 1664 Third     "  
 1685 Fourth    "  
 1709 Rowe.  
 1714    ", 2d edition.  
 1725 Pope.  
 1728    ", 2d edition.  
 1733 Theobald.  
 1744 Hanmer.  
 1747 Warburton.  
 1765 Johnson.  
 1767 Capell.  
 1790 Malone.  
 1793 Johnson and Steevens, 4th edition, revised and augmented by Isaac Reed.  
 1821 Boswell's Variorum.  
 1853 Halliwell's Folio edition.  
 1857 Dyce.  
 1863 Cambridge edition, Clark and Wright.  
 1864 Globe edition, Clark and Wright.  
 1877 Clarendon Press edition of Shakespeare's Select Plays, Wright.  
 1877 Friendly edition, Rolfe.  
 [1877-1881] Leopold edition, text of Delius, introd. by Furnivall (Delius' 5th Germ. ed., 1882).  
 1880 Harvard edition, Hudson.  
 1883 Riverside edition, White.

Unless an exception is made by showing in ( ) the practice of a single editor, *the notes give merely the name of the editor proposing the given change*, which has been uniformly adopted by succeeding editors. Thus I. i. 10 Now bent] New-bent *Rowe* indicates that Rowe made the change referred to, and has been followed generally; and in particular by, at least, the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions.

The *stage-directions* which are not assigned to any editor in the notes, are all as early as Capell, except V. i. 44, 48, 52, 56, 291, 334. I have not at hand the means to trace the source of the changes referred to in the notes on IV. i. 42 and 55.

I. i.       SCENE I. *Athens. The Palace of THESEUS.*

3 Moon Fo.] The absence of the final *e* seems to be due to a practice of omitting this silent letter in the case of crowded lines. This contraction

applies also to final double consonants, as in line 7, *wil*, and often. Compare I. 1. 201, *wold* RFo, *wer* Fo. These shorter forms were also sometimes used, when there was no such typographical reason. F has *nights* on the title-page and at the top of page 2, where there was not in either case space for an extra *e*; the head-line of each page, however, excepting p. 61, has *nights*.

10 Now bent] New-bent *Rowe*.

15 [Exit Philostrate.] *Theobald*.

24 Stand forth *Demetrius*. F and

26 Stand forth *Lisander*. F are the only stage-directions in F which have the personal names in italics. They were first printed as part of the text by *Rowe*.

127 *Exeunt Fo*] The loss or the lack of a punctuation-mark at the very end of a line is not uncommon; compare I. 201, I. 2. 110, and often.

136 loue] low *Theobald*.

187 Your words I] Yours would I *Hanmer*.

191 Ile (*Delius*)] I'd *Hanmer*.

216 sweld] sweet *Theobald*.

219 strange companions] stranger companies *Theobald*.

I. 2. SCENE II. *Athens*.

QUINCE's house. *Capell*.

II. 1. SCENE I. *A wood near Athens*.

7 Moons FRFo] The printers in all three cases may have omitted an *e* because of a crowded line.

48, 49 . . . crab / . . . bob /] Compare for the rhyme V. 1. 290-1. . . . pap / . . . hop /

60 (SCENE II. *Delius*.)

61 Fairy] Fairies *Theobald*. See note on IV. 2. 206.

79 Eagles] *Ægle Rowe*.

91 Hath] Have *Rowe*, 2d ed.

109 chinne] thin *Halliwell, Tyrwhitt's conjecture*.

177 when she FFo whence she R] For a somewhat similar perversion of the text see IV. 1. 79, loath his F, loathe this R, loath this Fo, and IV. 1. 190, thing seemes FR, things seemes Fo.

190 stay] slay *Theobald, Thirlby's conjecture*.

stayeth] slayeth *Theobald, Thirlby's conjecture*.

242 [Exit DEM. *Capell* (om. *Delius, Hudson*.)

244 (Exit) *Exeunt DEMETRIUS and HELENA. Delius, Hudson.*)

247 Enter Pucke.] *Re-enter PUCKE, after line 246*.

II. 2. SCENE II. *Capell.* (Sc. III. *Delius.*)  
*Another part of the wood.*  
26 [Exit *Fairies.* *Rowe.*  
*Enter OBERON, and squeezes the flower on Titania's eyelids.* *Capell.*  
34 [Exit. *Rowe.*  
57 *humane*] *human Fourth Folio, 1685.*  
100 *Lysander!* *Capell.*  
119 *humane*] *human Fourth Folio, 1685.*  
III. 1. SCENE I. *The wood. TITANIA lying asleep.*  
66 *or*] *and Collier MS.*  
74 *Enter Pucke behind.*  
79 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*  
81 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*  
85 [Exit. *Capell.*  
86 *This. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*  
90 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*  
98 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*  
100 *Re-enter PUCK, and BOTTOM with an ass' head.*]  
*Capell.*  
*Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*  
159 *First Fai.* Ready.  
*Sec. Fai.* And I.  
*Third Fai.* And I.  
*Fourth Fai.* And I. (*om. Delius.*)  
*All. (Fourth Fai. Delius.)* Where shall we go?  
*Capell.*  
171 *First Fai.* Hail, mortal!  
*Sec. Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*  
172 *Third Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*  
173 *Fourth Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*  
192 *you (Delius)*] *your Third Folio, 1664 (you of Collier MS., Hudson, Rolfe.)*  
III. 2. SCENE II. *Another part of the wood.*  
6 *love.*] *Rowe.*  
80 *part I so: / See me no more, whether Pope.*  
85 *slip*] *sleep Rowe.*  
141 *coniealed F*] Compare "coniealed frost" in  
*Clement Robinson's A Handfull of pleasant delights, Lond. 1584, p. 3, l. 7*; reprinted by Prof.  
*Arber in The English Scholar's Library, No. 3.*  
190 *bare*] *bear Fourth Folio, 1685.*  
201 See note on l. 257.  
213 *first life*] *first, like Theobald, Folkes's conjecture.*  
250 *praise*] *prayers Theobald.*  
257 The text and the printing of F seem to me perfectly defensible. There is certainly no printed

unaccented syllable in the fifth foot, but on the stage the second *no* may have been delivered in the time of two syllables, if not actually as *no-o*. The typographical disarrangement which R introduced and Fo copied shows that, although they did not appreciate the rhythm of F, yet they did not add an extra monosyllabic word. The same uniform treatment by FRFo is to be observed in lines 201 and 421 of this scene. Compare Abbott, Shak. Gram., 482.

264 O (*Delius*)] *om. Pope*.  
 406 Speak! In some bush?] *Capell*.  
 413 *Re-enter LYSANDER*.  
 420 [*Sleeps*. *Capell*.  
 421 See note on l. 257.  
 430 [*Lies down and sleeps*. *Capell*.  
 440 *Enter Hermia*] *Re-enter Hermia* after l. 441.  
 447 [*Lies down and sleeps*.  
 451 To your eye] *Rowe*.  
 452 *Squeezing the juice on Lysander's eyes*. *Rowe*.  
 IV. I. SCENE I. *The same*. LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA *lying asleep*.  
 The lines of this scene are wrongly numbered in the Globe ed. Titania's lines 27 and 30 are reckoned as two each.  
 41 alwaies] all ways *Theobald* (a while *Hanmer, Hudson, White*.)  
 42 *Omit commas*.  
 55 flowerets'  
 73 or] o'er *Theobald, Thirlby's conjecture*.  
 82 these five *Theobald, Thirlby's conjecture*.  
 93 Faire Fo] Compare V. i. 16 aire Fo.  
 117 Seem'd Second Folio, 1632.  
 133 right] rite *Pope*.  
 172 see] saw *Steevens*. *See for saw* occurs very commonly in dialect usage in Maine, and presumably in Northern New England generally.  
 "Soons he see me cummin, he run."  
 173 a] in *Steevens*.  
 206 about expound F] The emendation of F which seems necessary here, namely, *about t'expound*, is quite like that of II. i. 61, Fairy skippe (skip R Fo) FRFo Fairies skip, which was made by *Theobald*.  
 208 but patcht a FR] Compare As You Like It, I. i. 2, *but poor a*; and Abbott, Shak. Gram., 422.

IV. 2. SCENE II. *Athens. QUINCE's house.* Omit *Thisby.*

14 naught *Second Folio, 1632.*

28 I am not true *Athenian FR]* Compare *Clement Robinson's A Handfull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, p. 30:—

I wil be stil readie, as I am true man.

V. 1. SCENE I. *Athens. The palace of THESEUS.*

43 [Giving a paper. *Theobald.*

44 [Reads.]

48 [Reads.]

52 [Reads.]

56 [Reads.]

84 [Exit PHILOSTRATE.

105 [Re-enter PHILOSTRATE. *Theobald.*

176 Wall holds up his fingers. *Capell.*

202 [Exeunt PYR. and THIS. *Dyce.*

205 morall] mural *Pope, 2d ed.* (wall *White.*)

Now is the Moon vsed between the two neighbors. *FR]* The agreement of R with F gives a strong presumption in favor of the correctness of a reading. Something besides can be said for the reasonableness of this passage, which, as far as I can learn, has every editor against it. The Prologue had announced, lines 134-7:—

This man, with lanterne, dogge, and bush of thorne,  
Prefenteth moone-shine. For if you will know,  
By moone-shine did these louers thinke no scorne  
To meete at *Ninus* tombe, there, there to wooo :

The Enterlude then proceeded as far as this agreement of Pyramus and Thisbie to meet at the tomb, and Wall, who had served between the two neighbors, makes his explanation and leaves the stage. Thereupon the Duke says that now, in accordance with the statement of the Prologue, the Moon will be used between the two neighbors, probably in some such ingenuous way as the Wall had been.

260 [The Lion shakes Thisbe's mantle, and exit. *Capell.*

266 beames] gleams *Staunton, Knight's conjecture.*

268 The following "Sonet" from *Clement Robinson's A Handfull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, pp. 30-32, shows marked coincidences with parts of this Enterlude, both in words and rhythm.

*A new Sonet of Pyramus and Thisbie.*  
*To the [tune of], Downe right Squier.*

[Y]Ou Dames (I say) that climbe the mount of *Helicon*,  
 Come on with me, and giue account, what hath been  
 don :  
 Come tell the chaunce ye Muses all, and dolefull newes,  
 Which on these Louers did befall, which I accuse.  
 In *Babilon* not long agone, a noble Prince did dwell :  
 whose daughter bright dimd ech ones sight, so farre she  
 did excel.

¶ An other Lord of high renowne, who had a sonne :  
 And dwelling there within the towne, great loue be-  
 gunne :  
*Pyramus* this noble Knight, I tel you true :  
 Who with the loue of *Thisbie* bright, did cares renue :  
 It came to passe, their secrets was, beknowne vnto them  
 both :  
 And then in minde, they place do finde, where they their  
 loue vnclothe.

¶ This loue they vse long tract of time, till it befell :  
 At last they promised to meet at prime, by *Minus* well :  
 Where they might louingly imbrace, in loues delight :  
 That he might see his *Thisbies* face, and she his sight :  
 In ioyful case, she approcht the place, where she her  
*Pyramus*  
 Had thought to viewd, but was renewd, to them most  
 dolorous.

¶ Thus while she staies for *Pyramus*, there did proceed :  
 Out of the wood a Lion fierce, made *Thisbie* dred :  
 And as in haste she fled awaie, her Mantle fine :  
 The Lion tare in stead of priae, till that the time  
 That *Pyramus* proceeded thus, and see how lion tare  
 The Mantle this of *Thisbie* his, he desperately doth fare.

¶ For why he thought the lion had, faire *Thisbie* slaine.  
 And then the beast with his bright blade, he slew cer-  
 taine :  
 Then made he mone and said alas, (O wretched wight)  
 Now art thou in a woful case for *Thisbie* bright :  
 Oh Gods aboue, my faithfull loue shal neuer faile this  
 need :  
 For this my breath by fatall death, shal weave *Atropos*  
 threed.

¶ Then from his sheathe he drew his blade, and to his hart  
 He thrust the point, and life did vade, with painfull  
 smart :  
 Then *Thisbie* she from cabin came with pleasure great,  
 And to the well apase she ran, there for to treat :  
 And to discusse, to *Pyramus* of al her former feares.  
 And when slaine she, found him truly, she shed foorth  
 bitter teares.

¶ When sorrow great that she had made, she took in hand  
 The bloudie knife, to end her life, by fatall hand.

You Ladies all, peruse and see, the faithfulness,  
 How these two Louers did agree, to die in distresse :  
 You Muses waile, and do not faile, but still do you  
 lament :  
 These louers twaine, who with such paine, did die so  
 well content.

*Finis.*

*I. Thomson.*

291 [Stabs himself. (om. *Delius.*.)]  
 297 [Exit Moonshine. *Capell.*]  
 298 [Dies. *Capell.*]  
 304 ?]om. *Rowe.*  
 310 Moth (*Delius*)] mote *Steevens*, *Heath's conjecture.*  
 334 [Stabs herself. (om. *Delius.*.)]  
 340 Bot. (*Starting up.*) *Capell.* (om. *Delius, Hudson.*)  
 350 [A dance. *Capell.*]  
 359 (SCENE II. *Capell, Delius.*)  
 lion] *Rowe.*  
 360 beholds] behowls *Theobald, Warburton.*  
 388 The Song.] *Song and dance.* *Capell.*  
 407-8 These lines were transposed by *Staunton*, who  
 is followed by *Clar. Press, Globe, Hudson, Rolfe,*  
 and *White.*  
 410 [Exeunt King, Queen, and train. *Capell.*]

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

*(First given by Rowe.)*

THESEUS, Duke of Athens.

EGEUS, father to Hermia.

LYSANDER, } in love with Hermia.  
DEMETRIUS, }

PHILOSTRATE, master of the revels to Theseus.

QUINCE, a carpenter.

SNUG, a joiner.

BOTTOM, a weaver.

FLUTE, a bellows-mender.

SNOUT, a tinker.

STARVELING, a tailor.

HIPPOLYTA, queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus.

HERMIA, daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander.

HELENA, in love with Demetrius.

OBERON, king of the fairies.

TITANIA, queen of the fairies.

PUCK, or Robin Goodfellow.

PEASEBLOSSOM, }

COBWEB, }

MOTH,

MUSTARDSEED, }

Prologue,

Pyramus,

Thisbe,

Wall,

Moonshine,

Lion,

Other fairies attending their King and Queen. Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta.

SCENE. *Athens, and a wood not far from it.*





A  
M I D S O M M E R  
Nights Dreame.

---

*Actus primus.*

---

*Enter Theseus, Hippolita, with others.*

*Theseus.*

**N**ow faire Hippolita, our nuptiall houre [145<sup>1</sup>]  
Drawes on apace: foure happy daies bring in  
Another Moon: but oh, me thinkes, how flow  
This old Moon wanes; She lingers my desires  
Like to a Step-dame, or a Dowager, 5  
Long withering out a yong mans reuennew.

*Hip.* Foure daies wil quickly steep theselues in nights  
Foure nights wil quickly dreame away the time:  
And then the Moone, like to a siluer bow,  
Now bent in heauen, shal behold the night 10  
Of our solemnities.

*The. Go Philofstrate,*  
Stirre vp the Athenian youth to merriments,  
Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth,  
Turne melancholy forth to Funerals:  
The pale companion is not for our pompe, 15  
Hippolita, I woo'd thee with my fword,  
And wonne thy loue, doing thee iniuries:  
But I will wed thee in another key,  
With pompe, with triumph, and with reuelling.

*Enter Egeus and his daughter Hermia, Lysander,  
and Demetrius.*

*Ege.* Happy be *Theseus*, our renowned Duke. 20

*The.* Thanks good *Egeus*: what's the news with thee?

*Ege.* Full of vexation, come I, with complaint  
Against my childe, my daughter Hermia.  
Stand forth *Demetrius*.

**F**R2 *Actus primus.] om. FR* <sup>1</sup>hower F <sup>2</sup>Draws F <sup>3</sup>apafe F <sup>4</sup>fower F  
<sup>3</sup>An other F <sup>4</sup>Moone FR <sup>5</sup>me thinks F <sup>6</sup>me-thinks R <sup>7</sup>Moone FR  
waunes F <sup>8</sup>! F : R <sup>9</sup>fires, F <sup>10</sup>]om. F <sup>11</sup>-dam R <sup>12</sup>young R <sup>13</sup>reue-  
newe F <sup>14</sup>reuenew R <sup>15</sup>Fower F <sup>16</sup>will FR <sup>17</sup>steepe FR <sup>18</sup>night: F <sup>19</sup>Fower F  
nights)daies R <sup>20</sup>will FR <sup>21</sup>bowe F <sup>22</sup>shall FR <sup>23</sup> beholde F <sup>24</sup>Goe FR  
<sup>24</sup>peart FR <sup>25</sup>foorth FR <sup>26</sup>pomp F <sup>27</sup>] FR <sup>28</sup>Hyp- F <sup>29</sup>reuel-  
ing F <sup>30</sup>*Lysander]* and *Lysander* and *Helena* F <sup>31</sup>and *Lysander*, *Helena* R  
<sup>31</sup>Thankes F :]. FR <sup>32</sup>Whats F <sup>33</sup>newes FR <sup>34</sup>FR3 <sup>35</sup>foorth R <sup>36</sup>*Deme*-FR

My Noble Lord,  
 This man hath my consent to marrie her. 25  
*Stand forth Lysander.*

And my gracious Duke,  
 This man hath bewitch'd the bosome of my childe :  
 Thou, thou *Lysander*, thou haft giuen her rimes,  
 And interchang'd loue-tokens with my childe :  
 Thou haft by Moone-light at her window fung, 30  
 With faining voice, verfes of faining loue,  
 And stolne the impression of her fantasie,  
 With bracelets of thy haire, rings, gawdes, conceits,  
 Knackes, trifles, Nose-gaies, sweet meats (messengers  
 Of strong preualiment in vnhardned youth) 35  
 With cunning haft thou filch'd my daughters heart, [145<sup>2</sup>]  
 Turn'd her obedience (which is due to me)  
 To stubborne harfneffe. And my gracious Duke,  
 Be it so the will not heere before your Grace,  
 Consent to marrie with *Demetrius*, 40  
 I beg the ancient priuiledge of Athens ;  
 As the is mine, I may dispose of her ;  
 Which shall be either to this Gentleman,  
 Or to her death, according to our Law,  
 Immediately prouided in that case. 45

*The.* What say you Hermia ? be aduis'd faire Maide,  
 To you your Father shoule be as a God ;  
 One that compos'd your beauties ; yea and one  
 To whom you are but as a forme in waxe  
 By him imprinted : and within his power, 50  
 To leaue the figure, or disfigure it :  
*Demetrius* is a worthy Gentleman.

*Her.* So is *Lysander*.

*The.* In himselfe he is.  
 But in this kinde, wanting your fathers voyce.  
 The other must be held the worthier. 55

*Her.* I would my father look'd but with my eyes.

*The.* Rather your eies must with his iudgment looke.

*Her.* I do entreat your Grace to pardon me.  
 I know not by what power I am made bold,

25 -ry FR 26 foorth R *Lif* F -tious F 27 -witcht FR :]. F 29 loue  
 tokens FR 31 haft, F -light, F -dowe F 32 phantasie : F 33 ceites F  
 34 Knackes R -jom. FR sweete F meates FR 35 -uailement FR  
 -dened FR 36 filcht FR 37 Turnd FR mee F 38 And, F -tious F  
 39 fo, F here, F here R 40 -ry FR 41 aun- F :]. F 42 :]. F 43 be, F  
 44 :]. F lawe F 45 -atly FR -ded, F 46 you, F -uif'd, FR maid FR  
 :]. F 47 you, F shoud R :]. FR 48 :]. F one, FR 49 whome F  
 wax, F wax R 50 :]. FR 53 *Lif* F is : / F is. / R 54 voice F :]. FR  
 55 FR4 lookt FR 57 eyes FR must, F iudgement, F iudgement R :]. F  
 58 doe F intreat F intreat R grace, F mee F 59 power, F bould ; F

Nor how it may concerne my modeftie  
In ſuſh a preſence heere to pleade my thoughts :  
But I beſeech your Grace, that I may know  
The worſt that may befall me in this caſe,  
If I refufe to wed *Demetrius*.

*The.* Either to dye the death, or to abiure  
For euer the ſociety of men.

Therefore faire *Hermia* queſtion your deſires,  
Know of your youth, examine well your blood,  
Whether (if you yeeld not to your fathers choice)  
You can endure the liuerie of a Nunne,  
For aye to be in ſhady Cloiſter mew'd,  
To liue a barren ſister all your life,  
Chanting faint hymnes to the cold fruitleſſe Moone,  
Thrice bleſſed they that master fo their blood,  
To vndergo ſuſh maiden pilgrimage,  
But earthlier happy is the Roſe diſtil'd,  
Then that which withering on the virgin thorne,  
Growes, liues, and dies, in ſingle bleſſedneſſe.

*Her.* So will I grow, ſo liue, ſo die my Lord, [146]  
Ere I will yeeld my virgin Patent vp  
Vnto his Lordſhip, whosē vnwiſhed yoake,  
My foule conſents not to giue foueraignty.

*The.* Take time to paufe, and by the next new Moon  
The ſealing day betwixt my loue and me,  
For euerlaſting bond of fellowſhip :  
Vpon that day either prepare to dye,  
For diſobedience to your fathers will,  
Or elſe to wed *Demetrius* as hee would,  
Or on *Dianas* Altar to protest  
For aie, auſterity, and ſingle life.

*Dem.* Relent sweet *Hermia*, and *Lysander*, yeelde  
Thy crazed title to my certaine right.

*Lyf.* You haue her fathers loue, *Demetrius* :  
Let me haue *Hermia* : do you marry him.

*Egeus.* Scornfull *Lysander*, true, he hath my Loue ;  
Aud what is mine, my loue ſhall render him.

<sup>60</sup> modeſty, FR <sup>61</sup> preſence, here FR plead FR :]; R <sup>62</sup> knowe F  
<sup>63</sup> mee F <sup>64</sup> dy F die R abiure, F <sup>65</sup> euer, F <sup>66</sup> Therefore, F  
*Hermia*, FR <sup>67</sup> Knowe F <sup>68</sup> yeelde F choyce FR <sup>69</sup> liuerie FR  
<sup>70</sup> cloiſter, F <sup>71</sup> Jom. FR <sup>72</sup> barraine F <sup>73</sup> Chaunting F hymnes, F  
colde FR <sup>74</sup> Thrife F they, F bloode F <sup>75</sup> vndergoe F  
]: F <sup>76</sup> earthlier F happy FR diſtil'd FR <sup>77</sup> that, which, F <sup>78</sup> growe F  
dye R <sup>79</sup> yield F Patent, F <sup>80</sup> -ſhippe F yoake, F <sup>81</sup> yoake FR <sup>82</sup> -ainty FR  
<sup>83</sup> pawſe F <sup>84</sup> newe F moone, FR <sup>85</sup> day, F <sup>86</sup> mee F <sup>87</sup> -ſhippe, F  
<sup>88</sup> -ius, FR he FR wold R <sup>89</sup> -teſt, FR <sup>90</sup> aye FR <sup>91</sup> -tie and F <sup>92</sup> FR  
Relent, F <sup>93</sup> ſweete FR and, F <sup>94</sup> yeeld FR <sup>95</sup> -mias FR <sup>96</sup> doe F  
<sup>97</sup> Scornfull F ;]: F <sup>98</sup> And FR

And she is mine, and all my right of her,  
I do estate vnto *Demetrius*.

*Lys.* I am my Lord, as well deriu'd as he,  
As well poffeft: my loue is more then his : 100  
My fortunes every way as fairely ranck'd  
(If not with vantage) as *Demetrius* :  
And (which is more then all these boasts can be)  
I am belou'd of beauteous *Hermia*.  
Why should not I then prosecute my right? 105  
*Demetrius*, Ile auouch it to his head,  
Made loue to *Nedars* daughter, *Helena*,  
And won her soule : and she (sweet Ladie) dotes,  
Deuoutly dotes, dotes in Idolatry,  
Vpon this spotted and inconstant man. 110

*The.* I must confesse, that I haue heard so much,  
And with *Demetrius* thought to haue spoke thereof :  
But being ouer-full of felfe-affaires,  
My minde did lose it. But *Demetrius* come,  
And come *Egeus*, you shall go with me, 115  
I haue fome priuate schooling for you both.  
For you faire *Hermia*, looke you arme your felfe,  
To fit your fancies to your Fathers will ;  
Or else the Law of Athens yeelds you vp  
(Which by no meanes we may extenuate) 120  
To death, or to a vow of fingle life.  
Come my *Hippolita*, what cheare my loue ?  
*Demetrius* and *Egeus* go along :  
I must implore you in fome busynesse  
Against our nuptiall, and conferre with you 125  
Of something, neerely that concernes your felues.

*Ege.* With dutie and desire we follow you. *Exeunt*  
*Manet Lysander and Hermia.*

*Lys.* How now my loue ? Why is your cheek so pale ?  
How chance the Rofes there do fade so fast ?  
*Her.* Belike for want of raine, which I could well 130  
Beteeme them, from the tempeft of mine eyes.

*Lys.* For ought that euer I could reade,  
Could euer heare by tale or historie,

97 her,] her FR 98 doe F 99 hee FR 100 than F 101 rankt F  
ranckt R 103 boastes F 104 -tious FR 106 heade F 108 sweete FR  
Lady R 111 much ; F 112 And, F -ius, FR :]; R 113 But, F  
ouer full FR felfe af- F 114 loofe F 115 goe F mee : F 117 you, faire F  
118 -cies, F 119 elfe, F 121 vowed F 122 *Hippolita* : F ,]; R 123 goe FR  
124 employ F -nesse, F 126 FR6 fome thing F nerely F 127 duety F  
duty R desire, FR *Manet Lysander and Hermia* om. FR 128 cheeke FR  
129 doe F 130 Belike, F ,]; F ; R 131 my FR 132 For] Eigh me : for F  
Eigh me ; for R aught F euer I could] I could euer FR , 133 here F  
-ry

The course of true loue neuer did run smooth,  
But either it was different in blood.

135

*Her.* O croffe! too high to be enthral'd to loue.

*Lys.* Or else misgrafted, in respect of yeares.

*Her.* O spight! too old to be ingag'd to yong.

*Lys.* Or else it stoo'd vpon the choise of merit.

*Her.* O hell! to choose loue by anothers eie.

140

*Lys.* Or if there were a sympathie in choise,  
Warre, death, or ficknesse, did lay feige to it;  
Making it momentarie, as a found:

Swift as a shadow, short as any dreame,

[146<sup>2</sup>]

Briefe as the lightning in the collied night,

145

That (in a spleene) vnfolds both heauen and earth;

And ere a man hath power to say, behold,

The iawes of darknesse, do deuoure it vp:

So quicke bright things come to confusion.

*Her.* If then true Louers haue beene euer croft,  
It stands as an edict in destinie:

150

Then let vs teach our triall patience,

Because it is a customarie croffe,

As due to loue, as thoughts, and dreames, and sighes,

Wishes and teares; poore Fancies followers.

155

*Lys.* A good perfwasion; therefore heare me *Hermia*,

I haue a Widdow Aunt, a dowager,

Of great reuennew, and she hath no childe,

From Athens is her house remou'd seuen leagues,

And she respects me, as her onely sonne:

160

There gentle *Hermia*, may I marrie thee,

And to that place, the sharpe Athenian Law

Cannot purfue vs. If thou lou'st me, then

Steale forth thy fathers house to morrow night:

And in the wood, a league without the towne,

165

(Where I did mee the once with *Helena*,

To do obseruance for a morne of May)

There will I stay for thee.

*Her.* My good *Lysander*,

134 runne smoothe FR ,J; F 135 bloud; FR 136 inthrall'd FR 137 J; FR  
138 olde FR young F 139 else, F stoo'de F choyce F merit.] friends; FR  
140 !, FR eyes FR .! F 141 Or, FR sympathy F sympathy R  
choyce F 142 death or F fiedge R 143 momentany FR ;J; FR  
144 Swift, F shadowe F ,J; FR short, F ,J; FR 145 Briefe, F  
lightening R 147 And, F behoide F 148 darkenesse F 150 bin FR  
151 edict, F -ny FR 152 patience: F 153 -ary FR 154 dewe F 155 Wishes, F  
156 ;J: FR mee, F me, R ,J: FR 157 widow F widow R Ant R  
158 reuenew FR childe: F 159 remou'd] remote, F remote R seauen F  
;J: F 160 respects mee F only F 161 FR7 There, F marry FR ,J: F  
162 can not F louest FR mee F 164 houfe, FR 165 towne,] towne FR  
166 ,Jom. F 167 for] to FR

I fweare to thee, by Cupids strongest bow,  
By his best arrow with the golden head, 170  
By the simplicitie of Venus Doues,  
By that which knitteth foules, and prospers loue,  
And by that fire which burn'd the Carthage Queene,  
When the false Troyan vnder faile was feene,  
By all the vowes that euer men haue broke, 175  
(In number more then euer women spoke)  
In that same place thou hast appointed me,  
To morrow truly will I meete with thee.

*Lys.* Keepe promise loue : looke here comes *Helena*.

*Enter Helena.*

*Her.* God speede faire *Helena*, whither away ? 180  
*Hel.* Cal you me faire ? that faire againe vnsay,  
*Demetrius* loues you faire : O happy faire !  
Your eyes are loadstarres, and your tongues sweet ayre  
More tuneable then Larke to shepheards eare,  
When wheate is greene, when hauthorne buds appeare, 185  
Sicknesse is catching : O were fauor so,  
Your words I catch, faire *Hermia* ere I go,  
My eare shoulde catch your voice, my eye, your eye,  
My tongue shoulde catch your tongues sweet melodie,  
Were the world mine, *Demetrius* being bated, 190  
The rest Ile glie to be to you translated.  
O teach me how you looke, and with what art  
you sway the motion of *Demetrius* hart.

*Her.* I frowne vpon him, yet he loues me still.  
*Hel.* O that your frownes would teach my smiles 195  
fuch skil.

*Her.* I giue him curses, yet he giues me loue.  
*Hel.* O that my prayers could fuch affection mooue.  
*Her.* The more I hate, the more he followes me.  
*Hel.* The more I loue, the more he hateth me.  
*Her.* His folly *Helena* is none of mine. 200  
*Hel.* None but your beauty, wold that fault wer mine  
*Her.* Take comfort : he no more shall fee my face,  
*Lysander* and my selfe will flie this place.

169 bowe F 170 arrowe, F arrow, R heade F 171-ty R 172 loues F  
173 fire, F burnd FR 174 *Troian* F sayle R 177 mee F 178 truely FR  
179 ;], R looke, F 180 ;], F 181 Call FR mee F ;], F 182 you] your FR  
happy FR 183 loadstarres R sweete aire F 184 tunable F larke, F  
shepheards F 185 wheat F buddes F ;], F 186 O, F fauour FR  
187 -mia, F goe FR 189 sweete F -dy FR ;], F 192 O, F mee F  
Art, FR 193 You FR heart FR 194 FR8 ;], F hee F 198 mee F  
195 frowns FR wold R 196 .om. R skil./FR 196 ;], F mee F 198 mee F  
199 mee F 200 folly, FR *Helena*, F none] no fault F 201 ;], F would F  
were FR mine. FR 202 ;], F 203 fly FR

Before the time I did *Lysander* see,  
Seem'd Athens like a Paradise to mee. 205  
O then, what graces in my Loue do dwell,  
That he hath turn'd a heauen into hell. [147<sup>1</sup>]

*Lys.* *Helen*, to you our mindes we will vnfold,  
To morrow night, when *Phaeb*e doth behold  
Her filuer vifage, in the watry glasse, 210  
Decking with liquid pearle, the bladed grasse  
(A time that Louers flights doth still conceale)  
Through *Athens* gates, haue we deuis'd to steale.

*Her.* And in the wood, where often you and I,  
Vpon faint Primrose beds, were wont to lye, 215  
Emptying our bosomes, of their counsell fweld :  
There my *Lysander*, and my selfe shall meete,  
And thence from *Athens* turne away our eyes  
To seeke new friends and strange companions,  
Farwell sweet play-fellow, pray thou for vs, 220  
And good lucke grant thee thy *Demetrius*.  
Keefe word *Lysander* we must starue our fight,  
From louers foode, till morrow deepe midnight.

*Exit Hermia.*

*Lys.* I will my *Hermia*. *Helena* adieu,  
As you on him, *Demetrius* dotes on you. *Exit Lysander.* 225

*Hele.* How happy some, ore otherosome can be ?  
Through *Athens* I am thought as faire as she.  
But what of that ? *Demetrius* thinkes not so :  
He will not know, what all, but he doth know,  
And as hee erres, doting on *Hermias* eyes ; 230  
So I, admiring of his qualities :  
Things base and vilde, holding no quantity,  
Loue can transpose to forme and dignity,  
Loue lookes not with the eyes, but with the minde,  
And therefore is wing'd *Cupid* painted blinde. 235  
Nor hath loues minde of any judgement taste :  
Wings and no eyes, figure, vnheedy haste.  
And therefore is Loue said to be a childe,  
Becaufe in choise he is often beguil'd,  
As waggish boyes in game themselues forsware ; 240

204 *Lys.* F 205 like] as F -dice R me R 206 dooe F 207 hee F  
turnd F into] unto a F .]! F 208 wee F vnfould : F 209 beholde F  
211-ing, F 212 time, FR 213 wee F deuised R 215 Pimrose R beddes F  
216 .] F R 218 thence, from *Athens*, F eyes, F 219 .] F R 221 Farewell, F  
sweete FR -jom. F .] F 221 graunt F 222 -der : F 224 .] F  
225 dote FR 226 happie F -some, F ?! F 227 -ens, F shee F  
228 FR\*R9 229 knowe FR\* hee FR\* doe FR\* do R know. FR\*  
230 he R .] F R\* 231 .] F R\* 232 vyle FR\*R -tie FR\* 233 -tie. FR\*  
234 minde : FR\* 235 wingd FR\*R 237 Wings, FR\*R 238 bee FR\*  
,] F R\* 239 Becaufe, in choyce, FR\* often] so oft FR\* oft R  
beguilde R .] F R\* 240 boyes, in game, FR\* .] F R\*

So the boy Loue is periu'r'd euery where.  
 For ere *Demetrius* lookt on *Hermias* eyne,  
 He hail'd downe oathes that he was onely mine.  
 And when this Haile some heat from *Hermia* felt,  
 So he diffolu'd, and shoures of oathes did melt, 245  
 I will goe tell him of faire *Hermias* flight:  
 Then to the wood will he, to morrow night  
 Purfue her; and for his intelligence,  
 If I haue thankes, it is a deere expence:  
 But heerein meane I to enrich my paine, 250  
 To haue his fight thither, and backe againe. *Exit.*

*Enter Quince the Carpenter, Snug the Ioyner, Bottome the Weaver, Flute the bellowes-mender, Snout the Tinker, and Starueling the Taylor.* [I. 2.

*Quin.* Is all our company heere?  
*Bot.* You were best to call them generally, man by man, according to the scrip.

*Qui.* Here is the scrowle of euery mans name, which is thought fit through all *Athens*, to play in our Enterlude before the Duke and the Dutches, on his wedding day at night. 5

*Bot.* First, good *Peter Quince*, say what the play treats on: then read the names of the Actors: and so grow on to a point. 10

*Quin.* Marry our play is the most lamentable Comedy, and most cruell death of *Pyramus* and *Thisbie*.

*Bot.* A very good peece of worke I affuse you, and a merry. Now good *Peter Quince*, call forth your Actors [147<sup>2</sup>] by the scrowle. Masters spred your felues. 15

*Quince.* Answere as I call you. *Nick Bottome the Weaver.*

*Bottome.* Ready; name what part I am for, and proceed.

*Quince.* You *Nicke Bottome* are set downe for *Pyramus.* 20

241 So, FR\* boy, Loue, FR\* 242 For, FR\* eyen FR\* 243 Hee FR\* hayld FR\* haid R othes, FR\* 244 this] his R haile, R heate, FR\* heate R -mia, FR\* 245 -folued FR\* shoures FR\* ,J. FR\* 246 go R 247 Then, FR\* wood] wodde, FR\* night, FR\* 248 ;] FR\* his] this FR\* R 249 thanks R deare FR\* R expene FR\* 250 herein FR\* 251 back FR\* Quince, F ,J; FR\* and Snugge, FR\* ,J; FR\* and Bottom, FR\* ,J; FR\* and Flute, FR\* Bellowes mender FR\* -lowe R ,J; FR\* & Snout, FR\* ,J; FR\* -ler FR\* 1 Quin. F 3 to] om. R scrippe FR\* R 5 thought R fit, FR\* al FR\* -lude, FR\* R 6 Duke, FR\* 7 night, R 8 ,J. om. FR\* R Peeter FR\* 9 grow on] grow FR\* R 11 FR\* R 10 Mary, FR\* 12 -by FR\* 13 worke, FR\* R 14 Peeter FR\* foorth R Actors, FR\* 15 Masters, spredde FR\* 16 Answere, FR\* Anfwer R -tom, FR\* 17 ,J; FR\* 18 -die: FR\* 19 -cede FR\* 20 You, FR\* Nick FR\* R -tom FR\*

*Bot.* What is *Pyramus*, a louer, or a tyrant?

*Quin.* A Louer that kills himselfe most gallantly for loue.

*Bot.* That will aske some teares in the true performing of it: if I do it, let the audience looke to their eies: I will moue stromes; I will condole in some measure. To the rest yet, my chiefe humour is for a tyrant. I could play *Ercles* rarely, or a part to teare a Cat in, to make all split the raging Rocks; and shiuering shocks shall break the locks of prison gates, and *Phibus* carre shall shine from farre, and make and marre the foolish Fates. This was lofty. Now name the rest of the Players. This is *Ercles* vaine, a tyrants vaine: a louer is more condoling.

*Quin.* *Francis Flute* the Bellowes-mender.

*Flu.* Heere *Peter Quince*.

*Quin.* You must take *Thisbie* on you.

*Flut.* What is *Thisbie*, a wandring Knight?

*Quin.* It is the Lady that *Pyramus* must loue.

*Flut.* Nay faith, let not mee play a woman, I haue a beard comming.

*Qui.* That's all one, you shall play it in a Maske, and you may speake as small as you will.

*Bot.* And I may hide my face, let me play *Thisbie* too: Ile speake in a monstrositie voyce; *Thisbie*, *Thisbie*, ah *Pyramus* my louer deare, thy *Thisbie* deare, and Lady deare.

*Quin.* No no, you must play *Pyramus*, and *Flute*, you *Thisby*.

*Bot.* Well, proceed.

*Qu.* *Robin Starueling* the Taylor.

*Star.* Heere *Peter Quince*.

*Quince.* *Robin Starueling*, you must play *Thisbies* mother?

*Tom Snowt*, the Tinker.

*Snowt.* Heere *Peter Quince*.

*Quin.* You, *Pyramus* father; my self, *Thisbies* father;

<sup>22</sup>-*mus*? FR\* <sup>23</sup> kil FR\*<sup>R</sup> -selfe, FR\* gallant, FR\*<sup>R</sup> <sup>25</sup> perfourming R <sup>26</sup> :]. FR\*, R doe FR\*<sup>R</sup> eyes FR\*<sup>R</sup> <sup>27</sup> wil FR\* moue R <sup>28</sup> :]. FR\* -dole, FR\* <sup>31</sup> :]. FR\* <sup>32</sup> shocks, FR\* <sup>33</sup> breake FR\*<sup>R</sup> <sup>40</sup>-tie FR\* Now, FR\* <sup>43</sup> *Flute*, FR\* Bellowes mender FR\* <sup>44</sup> :]. FR\* <sup>44</sup> *Here Peeter* FR\* <sup>45</sup> You] *Flute*, you FR\* -by, FR\* -by R <sup>46</sup> *Fla.* FR\* -by? FR\*<sup>R</sup> <sup>47</sup> Lady, FR\* <sup>48</sup> :]. FR\* me FR\*<sup>R</sup> womā: FR\* <sup>49</sup> cō-/ming FR\* <sup>50</sup> *Thats* FR\* al R <sup>51</sup> :]. FR\* shal R <sup>52</sup> :]. FR\* <sup>52</sup>-by to FR\*<sup>R</sup> <sup>53</sup> voice FR\* <sup>54</sup>-*mus*, FR\* <sup>55</sup> -by FR\*<sup>R</sup> <sup>56</sup> No no,] No, no: FR\* -*mus*: FR\* <sup>57</sup> *Thys.* FR\* <sup>58</sup>-ceede FR\* <sup>59</sup>-*ling*, FR\* Tailer FR\* Tailor R <sup>60</sup> *Here Peeter* FR\* <sup>61</sup> *Thysbyes* FR\* <sup>62</sup>?]: FR\*<sup>R</sup> <sup>63</sup> FR11 *Snowte* F <sup>64</sup> :]. F <sup>64</sup> *Here* FR <sup>65</sup> selfe FR

*Snugge* the Ioyner, you the Lyons part: and I hope there is a play fitted.

*Snug.* Haue you the Lions part written? pray you if be, giue it me, for I am flow of studie.

*Quin.* You may doe it *extemporie*, for it is nothing 70 but roaring.

*Bot.* Let mee play the Lyon too, I will roare that I will doe any mans heart good to heare me. I will roare, that I will make the Duke say, Let him roare againe, let him roare againe.

*Quin.* If you should doe it too terribly, you would fright the Dutcheffe and the Ladies, that they would shrike, and that were enough to hang vs all.

*All.* That would hang vs euery mothers sonne.

*Bottome.* I graunt you friends, if that you should fright the Ladies out of their Wittes, they would haue no more discretion but to hang vs: but I will aggrauate my voyce so, that I will roare you as gently as any fucking Doue; I will roare and 'twere any Nightingale.

*Quin.* You can play no part but *Piramus*, for *Piramus* is a sweet-fac'd man, a proper man as one shall see in [148<sup>1</sup>] a summers day; a most louely Gentleman-like man, therfore you must needs play *Piramus*.

*Bot.* Well, I will vndertake it. What beard were I 90 best to play it in?

*Quin.* Why, what you will.

*Bot.* I will discharche it, in either your straw-colour beard, your orange tawnie beard, your purple in graine beard, or your French-crowne colour'd beard, your perfect yellow.

*Quin.* Some of your French Crownes haue no haire at all, and then you will play bare-fac'd. But masters here are your parts, and I am to intreat you, request you, and defire you, to con them by too morrow night: and meet 100 me in the palace wood, a mile without the Towne, by Moone-light, there we will rehearse: for if we meeete in

<sup>66</sup> Snugge, F there] here FR <sup>68</sup> Lyons FR you, F if] if it FR  
<sup>69</sup> bee F mee: F flowe FR -dy R <sup>70</sup> do R it, F -pore: F -pore, R  
<sup>72</sup> me R to. F roare, FR <sup>73</sup> do R mee F <sup>74</sup> say; F againe: F  
 again, R <sup>76</sup> If] And F do FR <sup>77</sup> -effe, F <sup>78</sup> ,]: F inough F <sup>79</sup> vs, F  
<sup>80</sup> grant FR you, F that] om. FR <sup>81</sup> wits FR <sup>82</sup> -tion, F <sup>83</sup> voice F  
 wil F -ly, F <sup>84</sup> ,]: F roare] roare you, F roare you R 'twere R  
<sup>86</sup> ,]: F <sup>87</sup> sweete fac't F sweet fac't R ,]: F thal R <sup>88</sup> fommers FR  
 -om. FR ,]: F there- FR <sup>89</sup> needes F <sup>90</sup> ,]: F <sup>92</sup> ,]? F <sup>93</sup> wil F  
 eyther R straw colour F <sup>94</sup> -ny R bearde F <sup>95</sup> french crowne colour FR  
 perfit FR <sup>98</sup> ,]: FR bare fac't FR maisters F heere R <sup>99</sup> entreat R  
<sup>100</sup> defire / FR<sup>12</sup> too] to F meeete FR <sup>101</sup> mee F <sup>102</sup> ,]; F will wee F  
 wee F

the Citie, we shalbe dog'd with company, and our deuises knowne. In the meane time, I wil draw a bil of properties, such as our play wants. I pray you faile me not. 105

*Bottom.* We will meeete, and there we may rehearfe more obscenely and couragioufly. Take paines, be perfect, adieu.

*Quin.* At the Dukes oake we meeete.

*Bot.* Enough, hold or cut bow-strings.

*Exeunt* 110

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*Actus Secundus.*

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*Enter a Fairie at one doore, and Robin good-fellow at another.*

*Rob.* How now spirit, whether wander you?

*Fai.* Ouer hil, ouer dale, through bush, through briar,  
Ouer parke, ouer pale, through flood, through fire, 5  
I do wander euerie where, swifter then y Moons sphere ;  
And I serue the Fairy Queene, to dew her orbs vpon the  
The Cowslips tall, her pensioners bee, (green. 10  
In their gold coats, spots you see,  
Those be Rubies, Fairie fauors,  
In those freckles, liue their fauors,  
I must go feeke some dew drops heere,  
And hang a pearle in euery cowslips eare. 15  
Farewell thou Lob of spirits, Ile be gon,  
Our Queene and all her Elues come heere anon.

*Rob.* The King doth keepe his Reuels here to night,  
Take heed the Queene come not within his fight,  
For *Oberon* is passing fell and wrath, 20  
Because that she, as her attendant, hath  
A louely boy stolne from an Indian King,  
She neuer had so sweet a changeling,  
And iealous *Oberon* would haue the childe

<sup>103</sup> city F City R wee F shal be F shall be R dogd FR  
<sup>104</sup> known F will FR bill FR <sup>106</sup> Wee F <sup>107</sup> more] most F -ly, F  
 cor- F bee F perfit FR <sup>108</sup> .J: F <sup>109</sup> Qin F oke F wee F <sup>110</sup> .J: F  
 holde, F -Jom. F *Actus Secundus]* om. FR ¶ Enter F *fairy* R  
 -Jom. F <sup>1</sup> whither F <sup>2</sup> hill FR <sup>3</sup> thorough bush, thorough F brier FR  
<sup>5</sup> thorough flood, thorough fire : F <sup>6</sup> euery FR ,J: F <sup>7</sup> than F ;: F  
<sup>9</sup> orbes R <sup>10</sup> greene FR <sup>11</sup> flippes F ,Jom. F be R <sup>11</sup> spottes F ,: F  
<sup>12</sup> bies. Fairy R fauours FR ,J: F <sup>13</sup> fauours. F <sup>14</sup> goe FR  
 dropes F here FR <sup>15</sup> coulippes F <sup>16</sup> Farwell R <sup>17</sup> Lobbe F ,: F  
 gon. F gone, R <sup>17</sup> Queen, F here FR <sup>18</sup> heere R ,J. F <sup>19</sup> heede F  
 ,J. F <sup>20</sup> ,J: F <sup>22</sup> stollen, F stollen R ,J: F <sup>23</sup> sweete FR ,J. F  
<sup>24</sup> childe, FR

Knight of his traine, to trace the Forrefts wilde. 25  
 But she (perforce) with-holds the loued boy,  
 Crownes him with flowers, and makes him all her ioy.  
 And now they never meeet in groue, or greene,  
 By fountaine cleere, or spangled star-light sheene,  
 But they do square, that all their Elues for feare 30  
 Creepe into Acorne cups and hide them there.

*Fai.* Either I mistake your shape and making quite,  
 Or else you are that shrew'd and knauish spirit  
 Cal'd Robin Good-fellow. Are you not hee,  
 That frights the maidens of the Villageree, 35  
 Skim milke, and sometimes labour in the querne,  
 And bootleffe make the breathleffe hufwife cherne,  
 And sometime make the drinke to beare no barme,  
 Mislead night-wanderers, laughing at their harme, [148<sup>2</sup>]  
 Those that Hobgoblin call you, and sweet Pucke,  
 You do their worke, and they shall haue good lucke. 40  
 Are not you he ?

*Rob.* Thou speak'ft aright ;  
 I am that merrie wanderer of the night :  
 I iest to *Oberon*, and make him smile,  
 When I a fat and beane-fed horse beguile, 45  
 Neighing in likenesse of a filly foale,  
 And sometime lurke I in a Goffips bole,  
 In very likenesse of a roasted crab :  
 And when the drinkes, against her lips I bob,  
 And on her withered dewlop poure the Ale. 50  
 The wifest Aunt telling the faddest tale,  
 Sometime for three-foot stoole, mistaketh me,  
 Then slip I from her bum, downe topples she,  
 And tailour cries, and fals into a coffe.  
 And then the whole quire hold their hips, and loffe, 55  
 And waxen in their mirth, and neeze, and fweare,  
 A merrier houre vwas never wasted there.  
 But roome Fairy, heere comes *Oberon*.

*Fair.* And heere my Mistris :  
 Would that he vvere gone.

<sup>26</sup> shee, perforce, F <sup>27</sup> she, perforce R withhoulds F <sup>28</sup> FR13 now, F  
<sup>29</sup> cleare F <sup>30</sup> -Jom. FR <sup>31</sup> doe F Elues, for feare, F <sup>32</sup> cups, FR  
<sup>33</sup> shape, and making, F <sup>34</sup> es F shrewde F shrewd R sprite, F spirit, R  
<sup>35</sup> Cal'd FR <sup>36</sup> -Jom. F you not? not you F <sup>37</sup> Villageree F <sup>38</sup> Mislead F  
 Mis-lead R <sup>39</sup> -Jom. F harme? F <sup>40</sup> Those, F sweete Puck FR <sup>41</sup> doe F  
 luck F <sup>42</sup> hee F speakest F aright; I - night./FR <sup>43</sup> -ry F <sup>44</sup> :J. F, R  
<sup>45</sup> ieast FR <sup>46</sup> ;J. FR <sup>47</sup> Neyghing, F filly foale F <sup>48</sup> goffipes F  
<sup>49</sup> rosted FR crabbe F <sup>50</sup> dewlop, F <sup>51</sup> Aunt, F <sup>52</sup> Sometime, F  
 three foote, FR mee : F <sup>53</sup> slippe F bumme F <sup>54</sup> cryes FR falles F <sup>55</sup> J; F  
<sup>56</sup> hould F hippes F <sup>57</sup> myrth F fweare,] F <sup>58</sup> hower F <sup>59</sup> Faery : F  
 here FR <sup>60</sup> here, F here R mistreffe FR <sup>61</sup> F gon./F gone./R

*Enter the King of Fairies at one doore with his traine,  
and the Queene at another with hers.*

*Ob.* Ill met by Moone-light,  
Proud *Tytania*.

60

*Qu.* What, iealous *Oberon*? Fairy skip hence.  
I haue forsworne his bed and companie.

*Ob.* Tarrie rash Wanton ; am not I thy Lord ?

*Qu.* Then I must be thy Lady : but I know  
When thou vvaft stolne away from Fairy Land, 65  
And in the shape of *Corin*, fate all day,  
Playing on pipes of Corne, and versing loue  
To amorous *Phillida*. Why art thou heere  
Come from the farthest steepe of *India*?  
But that forsooth the bouncing *Amazon*  
Your buskin'd Mistresse, and your Warrior loue, 70  
To *Theseus* must be Wedded ; and you come,  
To give their bed ioy and prosperitie.

*Ob.* How canst thou thus for shame *Tytania*,  
Glance at my credite, vwith *Hippolita*? 75  
Knowing I knovv thy loue to *Theseus*?  
Didst thou not leade him through the glimmering night  
From *Peregenia*, whom he rauished?  
And make him vwith faire Eagles breake his faith  
With *Ariadne*, and *Atiopa*? 80

*Que.* These are the forgeries of iealousie,  
And never since the middle Summers spring  
Met vve on hil, in dale, forrest, or mead,  
By paued fountaine, or by rushie brooke,  
Or in the beached margent of the sea, 85  
To dance our ringlets to the whistling Winde,  
But vwith thy braules thou haft disturb'd our sport.  
Therefore the Windes, piping to vs in vaine,  
As in reuenge, haue fuck'd vp from the sea  
Contagious fogges : Which falling in the Land, 90  
Hath euerie petty Riuier made so proud,  
That they haue ouer-borne their Continents.

Fairies, F doore, F traine ; F Queene, at another, F <sup>60</sup>-*jom.* F  
-*mia.*/FR <sup>61</sup>FR14 skippe F <sup>62</sup>bedde, F -ny FR <sup>63</sup>Tarry, F <sup>64</sup>Tarry R  
J. F <sup>64</sup>thy R <sup>65</sup>haft stolne FR <sup>66</sup>sat FR <sup>67</sup>loue, FR <sup>68</sup>here FR  
<sup>69</sup>steppe F <sup>70</sup>that, forsooth, the bounfing *Amazon*, F -*zon*, R  
<sup>71</sup>buskin'd FR <sup>72</sup>warriour F <sup>73</sup>bedde, F -ty R <sup>74</sup>thus, F shame, FR  
<sup>75</sup>Glaunce F credit F <sup>76</sup>-ing, F <sup>77</sup>thou not thou FR  
lead F night, FR <sup>78</sup>*Perig-* FR <sup>79</sup>him, F <sup>80</sup>Eagles, F <sup>81</sup>*Antiopa* FR  
<sup>81</sup>J. F <sup>82</sup>neuer, F Sommers spring, FR <sup>83</sup>hill FR forrest or R  
meade F <sup>84</sup>rushy R <sup>86</sup>daunce F <sup>87</sup>brawles FR disturb'd FR <sup>88</sup>pyp- FR  
<sup>89</sup>fuckt FR vp, F Sea, FR <sup>90</sup>fogs; R which, F <sup>91</sup>euery pelting FR  
proude F <sup>92</sup>-*jom.* F

The Oxe hath therefore stretch'd his yoake in vaine,  
The Ploughman lost his sweat, and the greene Corne  
Hath rotted, ere his youth attain'd a beard : 95  
The fold stands empty in the drowned field,  
And Crowes are fatted vwith the murrion flocke,  
The nine mens Morris is fild vp with mud, [149<sup>1</sup>]  
And the queint Mazes in the wanton greene,  
For lacke of tread are vndistinguisheable. 100  
The humane mortals want their winter heere,  
No night is now with hymne or caroll blest ;  
Therefore the Moone (the gouernesse of floods)  
Pale in her anger, wafhes all the aire ;  
That Rheumaticke diseafes doe abound. 105  
And through this distemperature, we see  
The seafsons alter ; hoared headed frosts  
Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson Rose,  
And on old *Hyems* chinne and Icie crowne,  
An odorous Chaplet of sweet Sommer buds 110  
Is as in mockery fet. The Spring, the Sommer,  
The childing Autumne, angry Winter change  
Their wonted Liueries, and the mazed world,  
By their increase, now knowes not which is which ;  
And this same progeny of euills, 115  
Comes from our debate, from our dissencion,  
We are their parents and originall.

*Ober.* Do you amend it then, it lies in you,  
Why should *Titania* crosse her *Oberon* ?  
I do but beg a little changeling boy, 120  
To be my Henchman.

*Qu.* Set your heart at rest,  
The Fairy land buyes not the childe of me,  
His mother was a Votrefesse of my Order,  
And in the spiced *Indian* aire, by night  
Full often haith she goffipt by my side, 125  
And fat with me on *Neptunes* yellow fands,  
Marking th'embarked traders on the flood,  
When we haue laught to see the failes conceiue,  
And grow big bellied with the wanton winde :  
Which she with pretty and with swimming gate, 130

<sup>93</sup> stretcht FR yoke R <sup>95</sup> attainde F attaint R bearde F <sup>96</sup> FR15  
empty, FR <sup>97</sup> J. F <sup>98</sup> mudde: F <sup>99</sup> Mazes, F <sup>100</sup> tread, FR <sup>101</sup> J. F  
<sup>102</sup> hymme R carroll FR ;]. F <sup>105</sup> do R <sup>106</sup> And, thorough F wee F  
<sup>107</sup> ;]. F hoary F <sup>108</sup> lappe F Crymfon F <sup>109</sup> Icy F <sup>110</sup> (weete FR  
buddes F <sup>111</sup> Is, F mockery, F mockery R <sup>113</sup> ;]. F worlde F <sup>114</sup> ;]. F  
<sup>115</sup> euils FR <sup>116</sup> -tion: F <sup>118</sup> Doe F <sup>119</sup> ;]. F lies FR <sup>120</sup> doe F  
begge F <sup>121</sup> ;]. F <sup>122</sup> Faiery F buies FR mee F <sup>123</sup> ;]. F <sup>124</sup> ayer F  
night, F <sup>125</sup> goffipt, F <sup>126</sup> fat, F <sup>127</sup> Jom. F <sup>128</sup> conceaue F  
<sup>129</sup> bigge bellied, F <sup>130</sup> FR16 the, with prettie, F

Following (her wombe then rich with my yong squire)  
 Would imitate, and faile vpon the Land,  
 To fetch me trifles, and returne againe,  
 As from a voyage, rich with merchandize.  
 But she being mortall, of that boy did die,  
 And for her sake I doe reare vp her boy,  
 And for her sake I will not part with him.

135

*Ob.* How long within this wood intend you stay?

*Qu.* Perchance till after *Theseus* wedding day.  
 If you will patiently dance in our Round,  
 And see our Moone-light reuels, goe with vs ;  
 If not, shun me and I will spare your haunts.

140

*Ob.* Giue me that boy, and I will goe with thee.

*Qu.* Not for thy Fairy Kingdome. Fairies away :  
 We shall chide downe right, if I longer stay. *Exeunt.* 145

*Ob.* Wel, go thy way : thou shalt not from this groue,  
 Till I torment thee for this iniury.  
 My gentle *Pucke* come hither ; thou remembrest  
 Since once I sat vpon a promontory,  
 And heard a Meare-maide on a Dolphins backe,  
 Vttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,  
 That the rude sea grew ciuill at her song,  
 And certaine starres shot madly from their Spheares,  
 To heare the Sea-maids musick.

150

*Puc.* I remember.

*Ob.* That very time I say (but thou couldst not) 155  
 Flying betweene the cold Moone and the earth,  
*Cupid* all arm'd ; a certaine aime he tooke  
 At a faire Vestall, throned by the West,  
 And loos'd his loue-shaft smartly from his bow,  
 As it shoud pierce a hundred thousand hearts,  
 But I might fee young *Cupids* fiery shaft 160  
 Quencht in the chaste beames of the watry Moone ; [149<sup>2</sup>]  
 And the imperiall Votrefesse passed on,  
 In maiden meditation, fancy free.  
 Yet markt I where the bolt of *Cupid* fell. 165  
 It fell vpon a little westerne flower ;  
 Before, milke-white ; now purple with loues wound,  
 And maidens call it, Loue in idlenesse.

<sup>131</sup>young FR <sup>134</sup> marchandise F <sup>135</sup>she, F dye FR <sup>136</sup> And, F sake,  
 doe I F sake do I R ; F <sup>137</sup> And, F sake, F <sup>138</sup>long, F wood, en-  
 tend F <sup>139</sup> Perchaunce, F <sup>140</sup>daunce F <sup>141</sup> -jom. F Rueelles F go R  
 ; F <sup>142</sup>shunne me, F <sup>143</sup>mee F go R <sup>144</sup>Fairie R ; F <sup>145</sup>downe-  
 right F <sup>146</sup> Well FR ; F goe F ; F <sup>147</sup>thee, F <sup>148</sup>; F -breft, F  
<sup>150</sup> Mearemaide, F <sup>151</sup>herm. F <sup>152</sup>grewe F <sup>153</sup>cettaine F <sup>155</sup>time, I  
 faw F couldst F <sup>156</sup>colde FR <sup>157</sup>*Cupid*, F ; F <sup>158</sup>the]om. FR  
<sup>159</sup>smartly, F bowe F <sup>160</sup>pearce F ; F <sup>161</sup>But, F <sup>162</sup>chaft F ; F  
<sup>164</sup>FR<sup>17</sup> <sup>165</sup>I, F fel R <sup>167</sup>milke white F purple, F

Fetch me that flower ; the hearb I shew'd thee once,  
The iuyce of it, on sleeping eye-lids laid,  
Will make or man or woman madly dote  
Vpon the next liue creature that it fees.  
Fetch me this hearbe, and be thou heere againe,  
Ere the *Leviathan* can swim a league.

*Pucke.* Ile put a girdle about the earth, in forty mi- 175  
nutes.

*Ober.* Hauing once this iuyce,  
Ile watch *Titania*, when she is aleepe,  
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes :  
The next thing when the waking lookest vpon,  
(Be it on Lyon, Beare, or Wolfe, or Bull,  
On medling Monkey, or on busie Ape) 180  
Shee shall purfue it, with the soule of loue.  
And ere I take this charme off from her sight,  
(As I can take it with another hearbe)  
Ile make her render vp her Page to me.  
But who comes heere ? I am inuisible, 185  
And I will ouer-heare their conference.

*Enter Demetrius, Helena following him.*

*Deme.* I loue thee not, therefore purfue me not,  
Where is *Lysander*, and faire *Hermia* ?  
The one Ile stay, the other stayeth me. 190  
Thou toldst me they were stolne into this wood ;  
And heere am I, and wood within this wood,  
Becaufe I cannot meet my *Hermia*.  
Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

*Hel.* You draw me, you hard-hearted Adamant,  
But yet you draw not Iron, for my heart  
Is true as steele. Leaue you your power to draw,  
And I shall haue no power to follow you.

*Deme.* Do I entice you ? do I speake you faire ?  
Or rather doe I not in plainest truth,  
Tell you I doe not, nor I cannot loue you ? 200

*Hel.* And euen for that doe I loue thee the more ;

169 mee F flowre : F herbe F shewed F ,J. F 170 iewce F eyeliddes F  
laide FR 171 dote, F 172 mee F herbe F here FR ,Jom. F 174 swimme F  
175 girdle, roûd about F 176 iuice F 177 when] whence R a sleepe F  
178 droppe F it, F 179 when] then F she, waking, F ,Jom. F 181 Monkey F  
182 She FR 183 charme, from of F ,Jom. F 184 herbe F 185 Page, F  
mee F 186 But, F here F 187 ,Jom. F 188 not : there- F not. F  
189 ,Jom. R 190 ,J: F 191 me, F into] vnto FR ,J: F 192 here FR  
wodde, within this wood : F 193 meeke FR 194 thee] the F mee F  
195 mee F hard hearted F ,J: F 196 ,J. F 198 FR18 199 Doe I entise F  
Doe F 200 do R truthe F 201 do R nor] not FR 202 euen, for that, F  
do FR theel] you, F ,J: F

I am your spaniell, and *Demetrius*,  
 The more you beat me, I will fawne on you.  
 Vse me but as your spaniell ; spurne me, strike me,  
 Neglect me, lose me ; onely give me leaue  
 (Vnworthy as I am) to follow you.

What worser place can I beg in your loue,  
 (And yet a place of high respect with me)  
 Then to be vfed as you doe your dogge.

*Dem.* Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit,  
 For I am sicke when I do looke on thee.

*Hel.* And I am sicke when I looke not on you.  
*Dem.* You doe impeach your modesty too much,  
 To leaue the City, and commit your felfe  
 Into the hands of one that loues you not,  
 To trust the opportunity of night,  
 And the ill counsell of a desert place,  
 With the rich worth of your virginity.

*Hel.* Your vertue is my priuiledge : for that  
 It is not night when I doe see your face.  
 Therefore I thinke I am not in the night,  
 Nor doth this wood lacke worlds of company,  
 For you in my respect are nll the world.  
 Then how can it be said I am alone,  
 When all the world is heere to looke on me ?

*Dem.* Ile run from thee, and hide me in the brakes,  
 And leaue thee to the mercy of wilde beasts.

*Hel.* The wildest hath not fuch a heart as you ;  
 Runne when you will, the story shall be chang'd :  
*Apollo* flies, and *Daphne* holds the chafe ;  
 The Doue purfues the Griffin, the milde Hinde  
 Makes speed to catch the Tyger. Bootleffe speede,  
 When cowardife purfues, and valour flies.

*Demet.* I will not stay thy questions, let me go ;  
 Or if thou follow me, doe not beleuee,  
 But I shall doe thee mischife in the wood.

*Hel.* I, in the Temple, in the Towne, and Field  
 You doe me mischife. Fye *Demetrius*,

203 -ell : and, F 204 beate R mee F 205 ;]: F strike mee, F 206 mee,  
 loose me : F leave R 207 -thie F 208 begge, F ,Jom. F 209 yet, F  
 mee F 210 doe] vse FR dog R 211 not, too much, F ,J. F 212 fick, F  
 213 fick, F 214 do R -tie F 215 citie F felfe, F 217 -tie F 219 -tie F  
 221 night, F do R 222 Therefore, I thinke, F 223 ,J. F 224 you, F  
 respect, F nll all FR 225 Then, F faide, F 226 here, F here R mee F  
 227 runne F 228 beastes F 229 ,J. F 230 ,J. F chaung'd FR 231 flyes R  
 ,Jom. F *Daphna* R ,J. F 232 -fon : F -fen, R 233 FR 19 speede F  
 Tigre F Tygre R Bootel- F 234 valor flyes R 235 ,J. F goe : F 236 fol-  
 lowe mee F do FR 237 do R -chiefe, F 238 and] the F fielde, F  
 239 do R Fy F ,J. F

Your wrongs doe set a scandall on my sexe : 240  
 We cannot fight for loue, as men may doe ;  
 We shoule be woo'd, and were not made to wooe.  
 I follow thee, and make a heauen of hell,  
 To die vpon the hand I loue so well. *Exit.*

*Ob.* Fare thee well Nymph, ere he do leaue this groue, 245  
 Thou shalst flie him, and he shal seeke thy loue.  
 Hast thou the flower there? Welcome wanderer.

*Enter Pucke.*

*Puck.* I, there it is.

*Ob.* I pray thee giue it me.

I know a banke where the wilde time blowes, 250  
 Where Oxflips and the nodding Violet growes,  
 Quite ouer-cannopied with luscious woodbine,  
 With sweet muske roses, and with Eglantine ;  
 There sleepes *Tytania*, sometyme of the night,  
 Lul'd in these flowers, with dances and delight :  
 And there the fnake throwes her enammeled skinne, 255  
 Weed wide enough to rap a Fairy in.  
 And with the iuyce of this Ile streeke her eyes,  
 And make her full of hatefull fantasies.  
 Take thou some of it, and feek through this groue ;  
 A sweet *Athenian* Lady is in loue 260  
 With a disdainefull youth : annoint his eyes,  
 But doe it when the next thing he espies,  
 May be the Lady. Thou shalst know the man,  
 By the *Athenian* garments he hath on.  
 Effect it with some care, that he may proue 265  
 More fond on her, then she vpon her loue ;  
 And looke thou meet me ere the first Cocke crow.

*Pu.* Feare not my Lord, your feruant shall do fo. *Exit.*

*Enter Queene of Fairies, with her traine.*

[II. 2.]

*Queen.* Come, now a Roundell, and a Fairy song ;  
 Then for the third part of a minute hence,  
 Some to kill Cankers in the muske rose buds,  
 Some warre with Reremise, for their leathern wings,  
 To make my small Elues coates, and some keepe backe 5  
 The clamorous Owle that nightly hoots and wonders

<sup>240</sup> do R sex FR <sup>241</sup> do R ;] F <sup>242</sup> I] Ile FR thee and FR <sup>244</sup> dy F  
 dye R *Exit]* om. F <sup>245</sup> Nymph. F <sup>246</sup> fly F flye R <sup>248</sup> mee F <sup>250</sup> Ox-  
 lips, F <sup>251</sup> ouercanopi'd F ouercanopied R lufhious FR <sup>252</sup> fweete FR  
 ;] F <sup>254</sup> Luld FR daunces F <sup>255</sup> -meld FR <sup>256</sup> rap] wrappe F  
<sup>257</sup> And, F this, FR <sup>258</sup> phan- F <sup>259</sup> seeke FR ;] F <sup>260</sup> fweete FR  
 loue, F <sup>261</sup> J. F <sup>262</sup> do R it, F <sup>263</sup> Ladie F <sup>265</sup> J; F proue FR  
<sup>266</sup> FR <sup>20</sup> ;] F <sup>267</sup> meete FR crowe F <sup>268</sup> ;] F *Exeunt* FR  
*Queene]* *Tytania* *Queene* F <sup>1</sup>;] F <sup>2</sup> Then, F <sup>3</sup> musk F <sup>4</sup> lethren F  
<sup>6</sup> Owle, FR hootes FR

At our queint spirits : Sing me now aleepe,  
Then to your offices, and let me rest.

*Fairies Sing.*

*You spotted Snakes with double tongue,  
Thorny Hedgehogges be not scene,  
Newts and blinde wormes do no wrong,  
Come not neere our Fairy Queene.*

10

*Philomele with melodie,  
Sing in your sweet Lullaby,  
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby,  
Neuer harme, nor speld, nor charme,  
Come our louely Lady nye,  
So good night with Lullaby.*

[150<sup>2</sup>]

15

*2. Fairy. Weaung Spiders come not heere,  
Hence you long leg'd Spinners, hence:  
Beetles blacke approach not neere ;  
Worme nor Snayle doe no offence.  
Philomele with melody, &c.*

20

*1. Fairy. Hence away, now all is well ;  
One aloofe, stand Centinell. Shee sleepes.*

25

*Enter Oberon.*

*Ober.* What thou feest when thou doft wake,  
Doe it for thy true Loue take :  
Loue and languish for his sake.  
Be it Ounce, or Catte, or Beare,  
Pard, or Boare with briftled haire,  
In thy eye that shall appeare,  
When thou wak'ft, it is thy deare,  
Wake when fome vyle thing is neere.

30

*Enter Lysander and Hermia.*

*Lys.* Faire loue, you faint with wandring in y woods,  
And to speake troth I haue forgot our way :  
Wee'll rest vs *Hermia*, if you thinke it good,  
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

35

*Ber.* Be it fo *Lysander* ; finde you out a bed,  
For I vpon this banke will rest my head.

40

*Lys.* One turfe shall serue as pillow for vs both,  
One heart, one bed, two bosomes, and one troth.

<sup>7</sup>a fleepe : F <sup>8</sup>mee F <sup>9</sup>Snakes, F <sup>11</sup>blindewormes F <sup>10</sup>om. R  
<sup>12</sup>-mele, F <sup>13</sup>-dy FR <sup>14</sup>your] our FR <sup>15</sup>sweett R <sup>17</sup>nigh F  
 J. FR <sup>18</sup>night, F <sup>20</sup>2.] I. FR <sup>21</sup>, J: F <sup>22</sup>legd FR <sup>23</sup>Spinders R  
<sup>24</sup>approch R <sup>25</sup>, J: F <sup>26</sup>fnaile F <sup>27</sup>do R <sup>28</sup>1.] 2. FR <sup>29</sup>, J: F <sup>30</sup> ;: F  
<sup>31</sup>Shee sleepes] om. FR <sup>32</sup>feest, F <sup>33</sup>doest F <sup>34</sup>Do R <sup>35</sup>thy thy thy R  
<sup>36</sup>FR21 <sup>37</sup>, J: F <sup>38</sup>Wake, F Lys- FR <sup>39</sup>-der : F <sup>40</sup>fainte, F wood : F  
<sup>41</sup>FR21 <sup>42</sup>, J: F <sup>43</sup>Weele F Wee'l R <sup>44</sup>comfor F <sup>45</sup>Be] Bet F <sup>46</sup>, J: F  
<sup>47</sup>bedde : F <sup>48</sup>I, F <sup>49</sup>banke, F <sup>50</sup>turffe R <sup>51</sup>serue, as pillow, F <sup>52</sup>bedde F

*Her.* Nay good *Lysander*, for my sake my deere  
Lie further off yet, doe not lie so neere.

*Lys.* O take the fence sweet, of my innocence, 45  
Loue takes the meaning, in loues conference,  
I meane that my heart vnto yours is knit,  
So that but one heart can you make of it.  
Two bosomes interchanged with an oath,  
So then two bosomes, and a fingle troth. 50  
Then by your side, no bed-roome me deny,  
For lying so, *Hermia*, I doe not lye.

*Her.* *Lysander* riddles very prettily ;  
Now much beshrew my manners and my pride,  
If *Hermia* meant to say, *Lysander* lied. 55  
But gentle friend, for loue and courtefie  
Lie further off, in humane modesty,  
Such separation, as may well be faid,  
Becomes a vertuous batchelour, and a maide,  
So farre be distant, and good night sweet friend ; 60  
Thy loue nere alter, till thy sweet life end.

*Lys.* Amen, amen, to that faire prayer, say I,  
And then end life, when I end loyalty :  
Heere is my bed, sleepe giue thee all his rest.

*Her.* With halfe that wish, the wishers eyes be prest. 65

*Enter Pucke.* They sleepe.

*Puck.* Through the Forrest haue I gone,  
But *Athenian* finde I none,  
One whose eyes I might approue  
This flowers force in stirring loue.  
Night and silence : who is heere ? 70  
Weedes of *Athens* he doth weare :  
This is he (my master faid)  
Despised the *Athenian* maide :  
And heere the maiden sleeping found,  
On the danke and durty ground. 75 [151<sup>1</sup>]  
Pretty soule, she durst not lye  
Neere this lacke-loue, this kill-curtesie.  
Churle, ypon thy eyes I throw

<sup>43</sup>good] god F ,]: F fake, F deare R <sup>44</sup>Ly F off, yet ; F do R  
lye F <sup>45</sup>sense, F sweete FR -cence. F <sup>46</sup>-rence. F is]it F ,]: F  
<sup>48</sup>can you] wee can F we can R ,]: F <sup>49</sup>interchained FR ,]: F  
<sup>51</sup>Then, F deny : F <sup>52</sup>do R <sup>53</sup>]: F <sup>54</sup>beshrew F -ners, F <sup>55</sup>lyed F  
<sup>56</sup>curtesie, F <sup>57</sup>Ly F ,]: F <sup>58</sup>faid,]faid F <sup>59</sup>-eler F -ellor R  
<sup>60</sup>sweete F ,]: F <sup>61</sup>jom. FR sweete FR ende R <sup>62</sup>praier R  
<sup>63</sup>loyalty R ,]: F <sup>64</sup>]: F <sup>65</sup>FR22 *They sleepe.] om.* FR <sup>66</sup>,]: F  
<sup>67</sup>finde[found F <sup>68</sup>One]On FR eies R <sup>70</sup>]: F <sup>72</sup>hee F faide F  
<sup>74</sup>here F -en, F <sup>75</sup>dirty FR <sup>76</sup>sowle F lye, F <sup>77</sup>lack-loue F lack loue R  
kil-curtesie F <sup>78</sup>throwe F

All the power this charme doth owe :  
 When thou wak'ft, let loue forbid  
 Sleepes his seate on thy eye-lid.  
 So awake when I am gone :  
 For I must now to Oberon.

80

*Exit.**Enter Demetrius and Helena running.**Hel.* Stay, though thou kill me, sweete *Demetrius*.*De.* I charge thee hence, and do not haunt me thus.

85

*Hel.* O wilt thou darkling leau me ? do not so.*De.* Stay on thy perill, I alone will goe.*Exit Demetrius.*

*Hel.* O I am out of breath, in this fond chace,  
 The more my prayer, the lesser is my grace,  
 Happy is *Hermia*, wherefoere she lies ;  
 For she hath blessed and attractive eyes.  
 How came her eyes so bright ? Not with falt teares.  
 If so, my eyes are oftner washt then hers.  
 No, no, I am as vgly as a Beare ;  
 For beafts that meeete me, runne away for feare,  
 Therefore no maruaile, though *Demetrius*  
 Doe as a monster, flie my presence thus.  
 What wicked and dissembling glasse of mine,  
 Made me compare with *Hermias* sphery eyne ?  
 But who is here ? *Lysander* on the ground ;  
 Deade or asleepe ? I see no bloud, no wound,  
*Lysander*, if you liue, good sir awake.

90

*Lys.* And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake.  
 Transparent *Helena*, nature her shewes art,  
 That through thy bosome makes me see thy heart.  
 Where is *Demetrius* ? oh how fit a word  
 Is that vile name, to perish on my sword !

95

*Hel.* Do not say so *Lysander*, say not so :  
 What though he loue your *Hermia* ? Lord, what though ?  
 Yet *Hermia* still loues you ; then be content.

100

*Lys.* Content with *Hermia* ? No, I do repent  
 The tedious minutes I with her haue spent.  
 Not *Hermia*, but *Helena* now I loue ;

<sup>80</sup>forbidde F <sup>81</sup>Sleepe, F seat, F seate, R eye lidde F <sup>82</sup>awake, F  
 gon F <sup>84</sup>]; F mee F <sup>85</sup>doe F mee F <sup>86</sup>O, F doe F <sup>87</sup>Stay, F  
 ;] F *Exit Demetrius.* om. FR <sup>88</sup>O, F chafe FR <sup>89</sup>prayer R grace. FR  
<sup>90</sup>pie F ;] F <sup>91</sup>ed, F <sup>93</sup>eies R <sup>94</sup>no : I F ;] F <sup>95</sup>beafts F  
 mee F away, F ;] F <sup>96</sup>-fore, F <sup>97</sup>Doe, F Do R fly F -ence, F  
<sup>98</sup>FR23 glasse, F <sup>99</sup>eyen ! F <sup>100</sup>But, F ?], R -der, F grouud R  
 ;] FR <sup>101</sup>Dead, F Dead R a sleepe F blood, FR ;] F <sup>102</sup>runne F  
 fire, F sweete F <sup>104</sup>-rant R her om. FR arte FR <sup>105</sup>bosome, F  
<sup>107</sup>worde F <sup>108</sup>so, F so, F <sup>110</sup>;] F <sup>111</sup>No : I doe F <sup>112</sup>minutes, F  
<sup>113</sup>now] om. F ;] F .

Who will not change a Rauen for a Doue ?  
 The will of man is by his reaſon fway'd : 115  
 And reaſon faies you are the worthier Maide.  
 Things growing are not ripe vntill their feaſon ;  
 So I being yong, till now ripe not to reaſon,  
 And touching now the point of humane ſkill,  
 Reaſon becomes the Marshall to my will,  
 And leades me to your eyes, where I oreooke  
 Loues ſtories, written in Loues richeſt booke. 120

*Hel.* Wherefore was I to this keene mockery borne ?  
 When at your hands did I deferue this ſcorne ?  
 Iſt not enough, iſt not enough, yong man, 125  
 That I did neuer, no nor neuer can,  
 Deferue a ſweete looke from *Demetrius* eye,  
 But you muſt flout my infiſciency ?  
 Good troth you do me wrong (good-footh you do)  
 In iſch diſdainfull manner, me to wooo. 130  
 But fare you well ; perforce I muſt confeſſe,  
 I thought you Lord of more true gentlenesse.  
 Oh, that a Lady of one man refuſ'd,  
 Should of another therefore be abuſ'd. Exit.

*Lyf.* She fees not *Hermia* : *Hermia* ſleepe thou there, 135  
 And neuer maift thou come *Lysander* neere ;  
 For as a ſurfeit of the ſweeteſt things [151<sup>2</sup>]  
 The deepeſt loathing to the ſtomacke brings :  
 Or as the herefies that men do leauē,  
 Are hated moſt of thoſe that did deceiue : 140  
 So thou, my ſurfeit, and my herefie,  
 Of all be hated ; but the moſt of me ;  
 And all my powers addrefſe your loue and might,  
 To honour *Helen*, and to be her Knight. Exit.

*Her.* Helpe me *Lysander*, helpe me ; do thy beſt 145  
 To plucke this crawling ferpent from my breſt.  
 Aye me, for pitty ; what a dreame was here ?  
*Lysander* looke, how I do quake with feare :  
 Me-thought a ferpent eate my heart away,  
 And yet fat ſmiling at his cruell prey. 150  
*Lysander*, what remou'd ? *Lysander*, Lord,

115 fway'd FR 116 maid R 117 ripe, F ;]: F 118 I, F young FR  
 , F 119 now, F 120 leads FR mee F ,]; F 121 When, F hands, F  
 125 young FR 126-cency R 127 doe mee F good footh F doe F  
 131 mee F 131 But, F ;]: F perforce, F 133 FR 24 O F Ladie, F  
 134 Should, of another, F ;]: F 135 -mia, FR 136 ;]. F 137 For, F  
 ferfet FR 138-ing, F brings F ;]: R 139 Or, F -fies, F doe F  
 140 that] they FR 141 ferfet FR 142 bee F moſt, of mee : F 145 mee F  
 mee : F 146 pluck F -pent, F 147 Ay mee F -tie, F 148 doe F :]. F  
 149 Me thought F 150 yet] you FR fate F pray F 151, lom. F what,  
 remou'd F

What, out of hearing, gone? No found, no word?  
 Alacke where are you? speake and if you heare:  
 Speake of all loues; I found almost with feare.  
 No, then I well perceiue you are not nye,  
 Either death or you Ile finde immediately.

155  
*Exit.*

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*Actus Tertius.*

---

*Enter the Clownes.**Bot.* Are we all met?*Quin.* Pat, pat, and here's a maruailous conuenient place for our rehearsall. This greene plot shall be our stage, this hauthorne brake our tyring houfe, and we will do it in action, as we will do it before the Duke. 5*Bot. Peter quince?**Peter.* What faist thou, bully *Bottome*?*Bot.* There are things in this Comedy of *Piramus* and *Thisby*, that will neuer please. First, *Piramus* must draw a sword to kill himselfe; which the Ladies cannot abide. 10 How answere you that?*Snout.* Berlaken, a parlous feare.*Star.* I beleue we must leaue the killing out, when all is done.*Bot.* Not a whit, I haue a deuice to make all well. 15 Write me a Prologue, and let the Prologue feeme to say, we will do no harme with our swords, and that *Pyramus* is not kill'd indeede: and for the more better assurance, tell them, that I *Piramus* am not *Piramus*, but *Bottome* the Weauer; this will put them out of feare.*Quin.* Well, we will haue such a Prologue, and it shall be written in eight and fixe.*Bot.* No, make it two more, let it be written in eight and eight.*Snout.* Will not the Ladies be afear'd of the Lyon? 25*Star.* I feare it, I promise you.

152 gon F 153 Speake, F. :]; FR 154 Speake, F. ;]. F. ; R. found] swoune F swound R 155 perceiue, F ny: F 156 Eyther R death, or you, F *Actus Tertius.*] om. FR 1 wee F 2 Pat, pat: F heres FR maruailes F 3 place, F 4 wee F 5 doe FR wee F doe F 6 Peeter F 7 faieft F bully, *Bottom* F 8 -edy, F Pyr. F 9 Pyr. F 10 sworde, F Ladys R 11 FR 25 answer R 12 -kin F 13 beleue, F -ling, F 15 ,]: F deuise F 16 fay; F 17 wee R wil F harme, F 18 kild FR indeed R 19 tel F 20 ,]: F Pyr. F Pyr. F -tom F 20 ,]: F 21 Well: wee F 22 fix F 23 ,]: F 25 afear'd FR

*Bot.* Masters, you ought to consider with your selues, to bring in (God shield vs) a Lyon among Ladies, is a most dreadfull thing. For there is not a more fearefull wilde foule then your Lyon liuing: and wee ought to looke to it. 30

*Snout.* Therefore another Prologue must tell he is not a Lyon.

*Bot.* Nay, you must name his name, and halfe his face must be feene through the Lyons necke, and he himselfe must speake through, saying thus, or to the same defect; Ladies, or faire Ladies, I would wish you, or I would request you, or I would entreat you, not to feare, not to [152<sup>1</sup>] tremble: my life for yours. If you thinke I come hither as a Lyon, it were pitty of my life. No, I am no such thing, I am a man as other men are; and there indeed let him name his name, and tell him plainly hee is *Snug* the ioyer. 40

*Quin.* Well, it shall be so; but there is two hard things, that is, to bring the Moone-light into a chamber: for you know, *Piramus* and *Thisby* meete by Moone-light. 45

*Sn.* Doth the Moone shone that night wee play our play?

*Bot.* A Calender, a Calender, looke in the Almanack, finde out Moone-shine, finde out Moone-shine. 50

*Enter Pucke.*

*Quin.* Yes, it doth shone that night.

*Bot.* Why then may you leaue a casement of the great chamber window (where we play) open, and the Moone may shone in at the casement. 55

*Quin.* I, or else one must come in with a bush of thorns and a lanthorne, and say he comes to disfigure, or to present the person of Moone-shine. Then there is another thing, we must haue a wall in the great Chamber; for *Piramus* and *Thisby* (saies the story) did talke through the chinke of a wall. 60

*Sn.* You can neuer bring in a wall. What say you *Bottome*?

<sup>27</sup> selfe FR <sup>28</sup> shielde F <sup>29</sup> fowle R we FR <sup>31</sup> toote. F <sup>32</sup> Therfore, F tel, F <sup>33</sup> Lion F <sup>34</sup> Nay: F <sup>35</sup> Lions F hee R <sup>36</sup> defect R <sup>38</sup> wold intreat F <sup>39</sup> hether R <sup>40</sup> tie F No: F <sup>41</sup> ;] F <sup>42</sup> ;] F indeed, F <sup>43</sup> tell him] tell them FR plainly F he FR *Snugge*, F <sup>44</sup> ;] F <sup>45</sup> ;] F things: F <sup>46</sup> Pyr- F <sup>48</sup> shone, that night, F we FR <sup>50</sup> FR26 -der: looke F -ack: F <sup>51</sup> Moonefhine. R *Enter Pucke.] om.* FR <sup>52</sup> Yes: F <sup>53</sup> Bot.] Cet. F then, F <sup>54</sup> ;] F <sup>55</sup> I: or els, F in, F thorns, FR <sup>57</sup> latern F <sup>58</sup> Then, F <sup>59</sup> ;] F wal F <sup>60</sup> ;] F Pyr- F <sup>62</sup> wal F <sup>63</sup> -om F

*Bot.* Some man or other must present wall, and let him haue some Plaster, or some Lome, or some rough cast about him, to signifie wall; or let him hold his fingers thus; and through that cranny, shall *Piramus* and *Thisby* whisper. 65

*Quin.* If that may be, then all is well. Come, fit downe euery mothers sonne, and rehearfe your parts. *Piramus*, you begin; when you haue spoken your speech, 70 enter into that Brake, and so euery one according to his cue.

*Enter Robin.*

*Rob.* What hempen home-spuns haue we swagge-ring here, 75  
So neere the Cradle of the Faierie Queene?  
What, a Play toward? Ile be an auditor,  
An Actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

*Quin.* Speake *Piramus*: *Thisby* stand forth.

*Pir.* *Thisby*, the flowers of odious fauors sweete.

*Quin.* Odours, odours. 80

*Pir.* Odours fauors sweete,  
So hath thy breath, my dearest *Thisby* deare.  
But harke, a voyce: stay thou but here a while,  
And by and by I will to thee appeare. *Exit. Pir.*

*Puck.* A stranger *Piramus*, then ere plaid here.

*This.* Must I speake now?

*Pet.* I marry must you. For you must vnderstand he goes but to see a noyse that he heard, and is to come againe.

*Thys.* Most radiant *Piramus*, most Lilly white of hue, 90  
Of colour like the red rose on triumphant bryer,  
Most brisky Iuuenall, and eke most louely Iew,  
As true as truest horfe, that yet would neuer tyre,  
Ile meeete thee *Piramus*, at *Ninnies* toombe.

*Pet.* *Ninus* toombe man: why, you must not speake 95  
that yet; that you answere to *Piramus*: you speake all  
your part at once, cues and all. *Piramus* enter, your cue is  
past; it is neuer tyre.

64;]: F 65 som lome F 66 cast, F holde F 67;]: F crany F Pyr. F  
70 reherfe F 71 Pyr. F beginne: F 74 homespunnes F swagging FR  
75 Fairy FR 77 to F -happes F 78 Pyr. F ;], R Thysby F 79 Jom. F  
fauours F 80 Odours, odorous. FR 81 fauours F ,]. F 83 voice F  
heere FR 84 Pir.] om. FR 85 Puck.] Quin. FR Pyr. F played heere F  
87 FR27 Pet.] Quin. F -städ, F 88 noyse, F 90 Pyr. F illie F hewe F  
91 redrose, F 92 eke F Iewe F 93 Pyr. F toombe F 95 Pet.] Quin. F  
toumbe, man. F ,]? F om. R speake/That F 96;]. F answere R  
*Piramus.* F speake/AI F 97 cues, and, F al R *Piramus*, F ,]: F  
98;]: F is; F tire F

*Thys.* O, as true as truest horse, that yet would neuer  
tyre :

*Pir.* If I were faire, *Thisby* I were onely thine. 100 [152<sup>2</sup>]

*Pet.* O monstrous. O strange. We are hanted; pray  
masters, flye masters, helpe.

*The Clownes all Exit.*

*Puk.* Ile follow you, Ile leade you about a Round,  
Through bogge, through bush, through brake, through  
Sometime a horse Ile be, fometime a hound: (bryer, 105  
A hogge, a headleffe beare, fometime a fire,  
And neigh, and barke, and grunt, and rore, and burne,  
Like horfe, hound, hog, beare, fire, at euery turne. *Exit.*

*Enter Piramus with the Affe head.*

*Bot.* Why do they run away? This is a knauery of  
them to make me afeard. *Enter Snowt.* 110

*Sn.* O *Bottom*, thou art chang'd; What doe I see on  
thee?

*Bot.* What do you see? You see an Affe-head of your  
owne, do you?

*Enter Peter Quince.*

*Pet.* Bleffe thee *Bottome*, bleffe thee; thou art transla- 115  
ted. *Exit.*

*Bot.* I see their knauery; this is to make an affe of me,  
to fright me if they could; but I will not stirre from  
this place, do what they can. I will walke vp and downe  
here, and I will sing that they shall heare I am not a- 120  
fraid.

The Woofell cocke, so blacke of hew,  
With Orenge-tawny bill.  
The Throstle, with his note so true,  
The Wren and little quill.

125

*Tyta.* What Angell wakes me from my flowry bed?

*Bot.* The Finch, the Sparrow, and the Larke,  
The plainsong Cuckow gray;  
Whose note full many a man doth marke,  
And dares not answere, nay.

130

<sup>99</sup> ;]. FR <sup>100</sup> *Thysby*, F <sup>101</sup> *Pet.*] *Quin.* F .!] F .!] F haunted FR  
;]. F <sup>102</sup> ;]. F fly F ;]. F *The Clownes all exit.*] *om.*, FR <sup>103</sup> *Puk.*]  
*Rob.* FR you: Ile F <sup>104</sup> bryer,] bryer: F bryer R <sup>105</sup> fome- FR ;], FR  
<sup>106</sup> headeleffe F fier F <sup>108</sup> hogge F *Enter Piramus with the Affe head.*] *om.*, FR <sup>109</sup> doe F runne F <sup>110</sup> mee F *Snowte* F <sup>111</sup> chaung'd. F  
do FR <sup>112</sup> doe F Affe head FR <sup>114</sup> own R ;], FR *Peter*] *om.*, F  
<sup>115</sup> *Pet.*] *Quin.* F -tom F ;], F <sup>117</sup> ;]. F mee F <sup>118</sup> me, F ;]: F wil F  
flir R <sup>120</sup> heere FR <sup>121</sup> afraide F <sup>122</sup> cock F <sup>123</sup> hewe F <sup>123</sup> Orange  
tawny bill, FR <sup>124</sup> **FR28** <sup>125</sup> Wren, F and] with FR <sup>127</sup> Fynch F  
-rowe F <sup>128</sup> ;]: F <sup>129</sup> note, F <sup>130</sup> anfwer R

For indeede, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird ?  
Who would giue a bird the lye, though he cry Cuckow,  
neuer so ?

*Tytia.* I pray thee gentle mortall, sing againe,  
Mine eare is much enamored of thy note ; 135  
On the first view to fay, to sweare I loue thee.  
So is mine eye enthrallled to thy shape,  
And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me.

*Bot.* Me-thinkes mistresse, you should haue little  
reason for that: and yet to fay the truth, reason and 140  
loue keepe little company together, now-adayes.  
The more the pittie, that some honest neighbours will  
not make them friends. Nay, I can gleeke vpon occa-  
sion.

*Tytia.* Thou art as wife, as thou art beautifull. 145

*Bot.* Not so neither: but if I had wit enough to get  
out of this wood, I haue enough to serue mine owne  
turne.

*Tytia.* Out of this wood, do not desire to goe,  
Thou shalt remaine here, whether thou wilt or no. 150  
I am a spirit of no common rate :  
The Summer still doth tend vpon my stafe,  
And I doe loue thee ; therefore goe with me,  
Ile giue thee Fairies to attend on thee ;  
And they shall fetch thee Iewels from the deepe, 155  
And sing, while thou on pressed flowers dost sleepe :  
And I will purge thy mortall grossenesse so,  
That thou shalt like an airie spirit go.

*Enter Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, Mustard-  
seed, and foure Fairies.*

*Fai.* Ready ; and I, and I, and I, Where shall we go ?

*Tita.* Be kinde and curteous to this Gentleman, 160 [151<sup>1</sup>]  
Hop in his walkes, and gambolle in his eies,  
Feede him with Apricocks, and Dewberries,  
With purple Grapes, greene Figs, and Mulberries,

<sup>131</sup> indeed R birde F <sup>132</sup>ly F hee F <sup>134</sup>thee, F againe. F  
<sup>135</sup> Myne F enamoured F ; F <sup>136-8</sup> So is mine eye enthrallled to thy  
shape, / And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me, / On the first  
viewe to fay, to sweare, I loue thee. F <sup>139</sup> I, R <sup>139</sup> Mee thinks F Me-  
thinks R <sup>140</sup> :]. F yet, F <sup>141</sup> now a daies F now adayes R <sup>142</sup> ty FR  
<sup>143</sup> Jom. FR gleeke, F <sup>147</sup> owne] owe F <sup>149</sup> doe F ; F <sup>151</sup> spirit, F  
<sup>152</sup> Sommer, F Sommer R still, F <sup>153</sup> do R ;] F go R mee. F  
<sup>154</sup> ;] F <sup>155</sup> Jewels, F <sup>156</sup> thou, F flowers, F <sup>158</sup> shalt, F ayery F  
ayry R spirit, goe F *Enter Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, Mustard-  
seed, and foure Fairies.] Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustard-seed ? /*  
*Enter foure Fairies. F Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustard-seed. /*  
*Enter foure Fairies. R <sup>159</sup> FR29 Fai.] Fairies. F Readie : F I, Where]*

I Where FR goe F <sup>161</sup> eyes F <sup>163</sup> figges F

The honie-bags steale from the humble Bees,  
And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighes, 165  
And light them at the fierie-Glow-wormes eyes,  
To haue my loue to bed, and to arise:  
And plucke the wings from painted Butterflies,  
To fan the Moone-beames from his sleeping eies.  
Nod to him Elues, and doe him curtesies. 170

1. *Fai.* Haile mortall, haile.

2. *Fai.* Haile.

3. *Fai.* Haile.

*Bot.* I cry your worships mercy hartily; I beseech  
your worships name. 175

*Cob. Cobweb.*

*Bot.* I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good  
Master *Cobweb*: if I cut my finger, I shall make bold  
with you.

Your name honest Gentleman? 180

*Peaf. Peafe-blossome.*

*Bot.* I pray you commend mee to mistresse *Squash*,  
your mother, and to master *Peafod* your father. Good  
master *Peafe-blossome*, I shal desire of you more acquain-  
tance to. Your name I beseech you fir? 185

*Mus. Mustard-seede.*

*Peaf. Peafe-blossome.*

*Bot.* Good master *Mustard seede*, I know your pati-  
ence well: that same cowardly gyant-like Oxe-beefe  
hath deuoured many a gentleman of your house. I pro- 190  
mise you, your kindred hath made my eyes water ere  
now. I desire you more acquaintance, good Master  
*Mustard-seede*.

*Tita.* Come waite vpon him, lead him to my bower.

The Moone me-thinks, lookes with a watrie eie, 195  
And when fle weepes, weepe euerie little flower,  
Lamenting some enforced chafttie.

Tye vp my louers tongue, bring him silently. Exit.

*Enter King of Pharies, solus.*

[III. 2.

*Ob.* I wonder if *Titania* be awak't;

<sup>164</sup> hony bagges F hony bags R <sup>165</sup> night tapers, FR <sup>166</sup> fierie-<sup>J</sup> fiery FR <sup>167</sup> Glowe- F eies R <sup>167</sup> bedde F <sup>J</sup>; F <sup>168</sup> om. R <sup>168</sup> pluck F wings, F <sup>169</sup> fanne FR eyes, FR <sup>170</sup> do R <sup>174</sup>-cy, F <sup>J</sup>; F <sup>175</sup> -shippes F <sup>176</sup> -wehbe F <sup>178</sup> bolde F <sup>181</sup> *Peafe-blossome* FR <sup>182</sup> me R <sup>183</sup> -cod, F <sup>184</sup> shall FR of you] you of FR -tance, F <sup>186</sup> -lom. F <sup>187</sup> *Peaf.* *Peafe-blossome.*] <sup>188</sup> *om.* FR <sup>188</sup> *Mustardseede* F <sup>189</sup> *seed* R <sup>189</sup> *J.* F <sup>190</sup> -ly, F gyant-  
like, Oxbeefe F <sup>191</sup> deuourd F <sup>191</sup> water, F <sup>193</sup> -lom. FR <sup>193</sup> -feed R <sup>194</sup>, <sup>J</sup>; F <sup>194</sup> leade FR <sup>195</sup> Moone, me thinkes F <sup>195</sup> watry FR <sup>196</sup> eye: F <sup>196</sup> flee F <sup>196</sup> weepel weepes F <sup>197</sup> -ry FR <sup>197</sup> FR30 <sup>197</sup> -ty R <sup>198</sup> Ty F <sup>198</sup> Fai-  
ries FR <sup>198</sup> *solus* and Robin goodfellow FR good-fel- R

Then what it was that next came in her eye,  
Which she must dote on, in extremitie.

*Enter Pucke.*

Here comes my messenger: how now mad spirit,  
What night-rule now about this gaunted groue?

5

*Puck.* My Miftris with a monster is in loue,  
Neere to her close and consecrated bower,  
While she was in her dull and sleeping hower,  
A crew of patches, rude Mcehanicals,  
That worke for bread vpon *Athenian* stals,  
Were met together to rehearfe a Play,  
Intended for great *Theseus* nuptiall day:  
The shallowest thick-skin of that barren fort,  
Who *Piramus* presented, in their sport,  
Forsooke his Scene, and entred in a brake,  
When I did him at this aduantage take,  
An Affes nose I fixed on his head.

10

Anon his *Thisbie* must be answereed,  
And forth my Mimmick comes: when they him spie,  
As Wilde-geefe, that the creeping Fowler eye,  
Or ruffed-pated choughes, many in fort  
(Rising and cawing at the guns report)

20

Seuer themselues, and madly sweene the skye:  
So at his fight, away his fellowes flye,  
And at our stampe, here ore and ore one fals;

[151<sup>2</sup>]

He murther cries, and helpe from *Athens* cals.

25

Their senfe thus weake, lost with their fears thus strong,  
Made senfeleffe things begin to do them wrong.

For briars and thornes at their apparell snatch,

Some sleeues, some hats, from yeelders all things catch,

30

I led them on in this distracted feare,

And left sweete *Piramus* translated there:

When in that moment (so it came to passe)

*Tytania* waked, and straightway lou'd an Affe.

*Ob.* This fals out better then I could deuise:

35

But hast thou yet lacht the *Athenians* eyes,

With the loue iuyce, as I did bid thee doe?

<sup>2</sup>was, F <sup>3</sup>extream- F <sup>4</sup>ty R *Enter Pucke.*] om. FR <sup>4</sup>]: F now, F  
,] F <sup>5</sup>-]om. F gaunted]haunted FR <sup>6</sup>miftris FR <sup>7</sup>,] F <sup>8</sup>dull, F  
<sup>9</sup>Mechan- FR <sup>10</sup>bread, FR stalles FR <sup>13</sup>thickskinne, F barraine F  
<sup>14</sup>Pyr- F <sup>16</sup>,] F <sup>19</sup>Minnick F Minnock R <sup>17</sup>,] F spy FR <sup>18</sup>,] F  
<sup>22</sup>wilde geefe FR Fou- F <sup>21</sup>ruffet pated F ruffed pated R <sup>22</sup>Ryfing,  
and cawing, F gunnes F <sup>23</sup>sky FR <sup>24</sup>So, F fly F <sup>25</sup>ore, one F  
alles FR <sup>26</sup>:] F <sup>26</sup>cryes FR <sup>27</sup>fense, F feares, F feares R <sup>28</sup>doe F  
<sup>29</sup>For, briars F thornes, F -ell, F <sup>29</sup>,] F <sup>30</sup>hats; F -ers, F <sup>31</sup>, F  
<sup>31</sup>on, F <sup>32</sup>Pyr- F <sup>33</sup>FR31 <sup>34</sup>wak't F straight way F <sup>35</sup>alles FR  
-ter, F <sup>36</sup>,] F <sup>36</sup>latcht F <sup>37</sup>iuice F do R

*Rob.* I tooke him sleeping (that is finisht to)  
And the *Athenian* woman by his fide,  
That when he wak't, of force the must be eyde.

40

*Enter Demetrius and Hermia.*

*Ob.* Stand close, this is the same *Athenian*.

*Rob.* This is the woman, but not this the man.

*Dem.* O why rebuke you him that loues you so?

Lay breath so bitter on your bitter foe.

*Her.* Now I but chide, but I shoulde vfe thee worse. 45  
For thou (I feare) haft giuen me caufe to curse,  
If thou haft slaine *Lysander* in his sleepe,  
Being ore shooes in bloud, plunge in the deepe, and kill  
me too:

The Sunne was not so true vnto the day, 50  
As he to me. Would he haue stollen away,  
From sleeping *Hermia*? Ile beleue as foone  
This whole earth may be bord, and that the Moone  
May through the Center creepe, and so displease  
Her brothers noonetide, with th'*Antipodes*. 55  
It cannot be but thou haft murdred him,  
So shoulde a mutrherer looke, so dead, so grim.

*Dem.* So shoulde the murderer looke, and so shoulde I,  
Pierst through the heart with your stearne cruelty: 60  
Yet you the murderer looks as bright as cleare,  
As yonder *Venus* in her glimmering spheare.

*Her.* What's this to my *Lysander*? where is he?  
Ah good *Demetrius*, wilt thou giue him me?

*Dem.* I'de rather giue his carkasse to my hounds.  
*Her.* Out dog, out cur, thou driu'st me past the bounds 65  
Of maidens patience. Haft thou slaine him then?  
Henceforth be neuer numbred among men.  
Oh, once tell true, euen for my fake,  
Durft thou a lookt vpon him, being awake?  
And haft thou kill'd him sleeping? O braue tutch: 70  
Could not a worme, an Adder do so much?  
An Adder did it: for with doubler tongue  
Then thine (thou serpent) neuer Adder stung.

*Dem.* You spend your passion on a mispri'sd mood,

<sup>39</sup> woman, F ,]; F <sup>40</sup> ey'd F <sup>41</sup>,]; F <sup>42</sup>,]; F <sup>43</sup> O, F him, F <sup>44</sup> bitter, on F <sup>45</sup>,]; F <sup>46</sup>,]; F <sup>47</sup> -der, F ,]; F <sup>48</sup> blood F <sup>49</sup> mee to. F to, R <sup>51</sup> hee to mee F hee F <sup>52</sup> Frow F beleue, as foone, F <sup>53</sup> bord F <sup>55</sup> be, F ,]; F <sup>57</sup> murtherer F murderer R looke; F grimme F <sup>58</sup> murthered F murdered R <sup>59</sup> Pearl F heart, F sterne F ,]; F <sup>60</sup> you, F murtherer, F looke as bright, FR cleere F <sup>61</sup> *Venus*, F <sup>62</sup> Whats F hee F <sup>63</sup> mee F <sup>64</sup> I'de I had F Ide R carcasfe F <sup>65</sup> curre FR ,]; F bonds R <sup>66</sup> FR32 O F true] true: tell true F fake: F <sup>69</sup> a] haue FR <sup>70</sup> kild FR him, F ,]; F <sup>72</sup>,]; R <sup>73</sup> thyne F <sup>74</sup> spende F -fion, F -pris'd F -priz'd R ,]; F

I am not guiltie of *Lysanders* blood: 75  
 Nor is he dead for ought that I can tell.

*Her.* I pray thee tell me then that he is well.

*Dem.* And if I could, what should I get therefore?

*Her.* A priuiledge, neuer to see me more; 80  
 And from thy hated presence part I: see me no more  
 Whether he be dead or no.

*Dem.* There is no following her in this fierce vaine,  
 Here therefore for a while I will remaine.  
 So sorrowes heauinesse doth heauier grow: 85  
 For debt that bankrout slip doth sorrow owe,  
 Which now in some flight measure it will pay,  
 If for his tender here I make some stay. *Lie downe.* [154]

*Ob.* What haft thou done? Thou haft mistaken quite  
 And laid the loue iuyce on some true loues fight:  
 Of thy misprision, must perforce ensue 90  
 Some true loue turn'd, and not a false turn'd true.

*Rob.* Then fate ore-rules, that one man holding troth,  
 A million faile, confounding oath on oath.

*Ob.* About the wood, goe swifter then the winde,  
 And *Helena* of *Athens* looke thou finde. 95  
 All fancy sicke she is, and pale of cheere,  
 With sighes of loue, that costs the fresh bloud deare.  
 By some illusion see thou bring her heere,  
 Ile charme his eyes against she doth appeare.

*Robin.* I go, I go, looke how I goe, 100  
 Swifter then arrow from the *Tartars* bowe. *Exit.*

*Ob.* Flower of this purple die,  
 Hit with *Cupids* archery,  
 Sinke in apple of his eye,  
 When his loue he doth espie, 105  
 Let her shine as gloriously  
 As the *Venus* of the sky.  
 When thou wak'ft if she be by,  
 Beg of her for remedy.

*Enter Pucke.*

*Puck.* Captaine of our Fairy band, 110  
*Helena* is heere at hand,  
 And the youth, mistooke by me,

75-ty FR blode F bloud R 76 deade, F dead, R 77 thee, F mee F  
 then, FR 79 mee F ;] F , R 80 ;] R 81 more; F more, R 82 ;] F  
 83 Heere FR fore, F while, F 84 growe F ;] F 85 flippe F ;] F  
 86 ;] F 87 heere R 88 *Ly donne* F 88 quite, FR 89 laide R 90 iuice F  
 91 turnd F 92 turnd FR 93 ;] om. F 94 is,] is F 95 blood F  
 96 here: F 99 eyes, F eies, R doth] doe F do R 100 I goe, I goe, F  
 101 arrow, F 102 FR33 103 FR33 105 espy FR  
 106 wak'ft, FR 109 Begge of her, F *Puck* F 111 hande F 112 mee F

Pleading for a Louers fee.

Shall we their fond Pageant fee?

Lord, what fooles these mortals be!

115

*Ob.* Stand aside: the noyse they make,  
Will cause *Demetrius* to awake.

*Puck.* Then will two at once wooo one,  
That must needs be sport alone:

And those things doe best please me,  
That befall preposterosly.

120

*Enter Lysander and Helena.*

*Lys.* Why should you think <sup>þ</sup> I should wooo in scorn?

Scorne and derision neuer comes in teares:

Looke when I vow I weepe; and vowed so borne,  
In their nativity all truth appears.

125

How can these things in me, feeme scorne to you?  
Bearing the badge of faith to proue them true.

*Hel.* You doe aduance your cunning more & more,  
When truth kils truth, O diuelish holy fray!

130

These vowed are *Hermias*. Will you giue her ore?  
Weigh oath with oath, and you will nothing weigh.  
Your vowed to her, and me, (put in two scales)  
Will euen weigh, and both as light as tales.

*Lys.* I had no iudgement, when to her I swore.

*Hel.* Nor none in my minde, now you giue her ore.

135

*Lys.* *Demetrius* loues her, and he loues not you. *Awa.*

*Dem.* O *Helen*, goddesse, nymph, perfect, diuine,  
To what my, loue, shall I compare thine eyne!  
Chrif tall is muddy, O how ripe in shew,  
Thy lips, those kissing cherries, tempting grow!  
That pure congealed white, high *Taurus* snow,  
Fan'd with the Easterne winde, turnes to a crow,  
When thou holdst vp thy hand. O let me kiffe  
This Princesse of pure white, this feale of blisse.

140

*Hell.* O spight! O hell! I fee you are all bent  
To fet against me, for your merriment:  
If you were ciuill, and knew curtesie,  
You would not doe me thus much iniury.  
Can you not hate me, as I know you doe,

145

[154<sup>2</sup>]

114 wee F 115 bee F 116 :. F noyse, F 118 two, at once, F ,: F  
119 needes F :. F 120 do FR mee F 121 prepost'rouly F -der, F  
122 think, F scorne F 123 Scorne, F -sion F come FR :. F 124 vow, F  
,: F 125 -tie F 126 things, in mee F 127 proue F 128 do R -ning,  
more, F 129 trueth killes F 131 oath, with F waigh F 132 mee F  
130. FR 133 ,: F 135 none, F 136 FR34 ,: F *Awa.*] om. FR  
137 nymph, perfect diuine F 138 what, my loue FR eine R 139 ,: F  
O, F ripe, F shewe FR 140 lippes F growe F 141 coniealed F  
142 Fand F crowe F 143 O, F 145 fee, F are all] all are FR 146 mee F  
,: F 148 do R mee F 149 mee F do R

But you must ioyne in foules to mocke me to ? 150

If you are men, as men you are in show,

You would not vse a gentle Lady so ;

To vow, and fweare, and superpraise my parts,

When I am sure you hate me with your hearts.

You both are Riualls, and loue *Hermia* ; 155

And now both Riualls to mocke *Helena*.

A trim exploit, a manly enterprize,

To coniure teares vp in a poore maides eyes,

With your derision ; none of noble fort,

Would so offend a Virgin, and extort 160

A poore foules patience, all to make you sport.

*Lysa.* You are vnkind *Demetrius* ; be not so,

For you loue *Hermia* ; this you know I know ;

And here with all good will, with all my heart,

In *Hermias* loue I yeeld you vp my part ; 165

And yours of *Helena*, to me bequeath,

Whom I do loue, and will do to my death.

*Hel.* Neuer did mockers wast more idle breth.

*Dem.* *Lysander*, keep thy *Hermia*, I will none :

If ere I lou'd her, all that loue is gone. 170

My heart to her, but as guest-wife soiourn'd,

And now to *Helena* it is home return'd,

There to remaine.

*Lys.* It is not so.

*De.* Disparage not the faith thou doft not know,

Lest to thy perill thou abide it deare. 175

Looke where thy Loue comes, yonder is thy deare.

*Enter Hermia.*

*Her.* Dark night, that from the eye his function takes,

The eare more quicke of apprehenfion makes,

Wherein it doth impaire the seeing fense,

Ir paies the hearing double recompence. 180

Thou art not by mine eye, *Lysander* found,

Mine eare (I thanke it) brought me to that found.

But why vnkindly didſt thou leauē me fo ? (to go ?

*Lysan.* Why ſhould hee ſtay whom Loue doth preſſe

<sup>150</sup> ioyne, in foules, F mee F too R <sup>151</sup> are men] were men FR shewe F <sup>152</sup> vowe F <sup>153</sup> fure, F mee F <sup>154</sup> Riualles, F Riualls, R mock F <sup>155</sup> -prife F <sup>156</sup> vp, F maides FR <sup>157</sup> ;om. F <sup>158</sup> R None, F <sup>159</sup> virgine FR <sup>160</sup> vnkinde, F vnkinde R ;] F <sup>161</sup> FR <sup>162</sup> <sup>163</sup> -mia : F ;] F <sup>164</sup> heare, F heere R <sup>165</sup> yeelde F ;] F <sup>166</sup> mee F ;] F <sup>167</sup> doe F to] till F <sup>168</sup> waſte FR breath FR <sup>169</sup> keepe FR ;] F <sup>170</sup> ;] F <sup>171</sup> FR35 guestwife, F ſoilournd FR ;] F <sup>172</sup> *Helena*, is it F <sup>173</sup> returnd F <sup>174</sup> It is] *Helena*, it is F <sup>175</sup> faith, F ;] F <sup>176</sup> Leaſt FR ill F aby F <sup>177</sup> Darke FR eye, F <sup>178</sup> ;] F <sup>179</sup> It FR payes F <sup>180</sup> not, by myne F eie R -der, found : F <sup>181</sup> eare, I thanke it, F that] thy FR <sup>182</sup> why, F ly, F mee F <sup>183</sup> he ſtay, FR

*Her.* What loue could preffe *Lysander* from my fide ? 185

*Lys.* *Lysanders* loue (that would not let him bide)

Faire *Helena* ; who more engilds the night,

Then all yon fierie oes, and eies of light.

Why feek'ft thou me ? Could not this make thee know,

The hate I bare thee, made me leaue thee so ?

190

*Her.* You speake not as you thinke ; it cannot be.

*Hel.* Loe, she is one of this confederacy,

Now I perceiue they haue conioyn'd all three,

To fashion this falfe sport in spight of me.

Iniurious *Hermia*, most vngratefull maid,

195

Haue you conspir'd, haue you with these contriuid

To baite me, with this foule derision ?

Is all the counfell that we two haue shar'd,

The fisters vowes, the houres that we haue spent,

When wee haue chid the hafty footed time,

200

For parting vs ; O, is all forgot ?

All schooledaies friendship, child-hood innocence ?

We *Hermia*, like two Artificiall gods,

Haue with our needles, created both one flower,

Both on one sampler, fitting on one cushion,

205

Both warbling of one song, both in one key ;

As if our hands, our fides, voices, and mindes

Had beene incorporate. So we grew together,

Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,

But yet a vnion in partition,

210

Two louely berries molded on one stem,

[155]

So with two seeming bodies, but one heart,

Two of the first life coats in Heraldry,

Due but to one and crowned with one crest.

And will you rent our ancient loue afunder,

215

To ioyne with men in scorning your poore friend ?

It is not friendly, 'tis not maideny.

Our fexe as well as I, may chide you for it,

Though I alone doe feele the iniurie.

*Her.* I am amazed at your passionate words,

220

I scorne you not ; It seemes that you scorne me.

*Hel.* Haue you not set *Lysander*, as in scorne

To follow me, and praiise my eies and face ?

And made your other loue, *Demetrius*

185 -der, F 187 ;]: F ,Jom. F 188 -ry FR eyes F 190 mee F 191 ;]: F bee F 192 Lo : F ,J. F 193 -ceiue, FR -ioynd FR 194 sport, FR mee F 195 maide FR 197 mee F 199 howers F 200 we FR -tie F 202 schooldaies F schooledaies R -shippe F ,Jom. F 203 Wee, F 204 FR 36 217 voyces F 208 bin FR wee grewe F -ted; F 210 a] an FR 211 moulded FR stemme FR ,]; F 214 to one, FR creaft F 215 aun- F 216 men, F 217 tis FR 218 fex, F it; F 219 do R fele F -ry FR 220 passionete] om. FR ,]; F mee F 222 scorne, F 223 mee F eyes F

(Who euen but now did spurne me with his foote) 225  
 To call me goddesse, nymph, diuine, and rare,  
 Precious, celestiall? Wherefore speakes he this  
 To her he hates? And wherefore doth *Lysander*  
 Denie your loue (so rich within his soule)  
 And tender me (forsooth) affection, 230  
 But by your setting on, by your consent?  
 What though I be not so in grace as you,  
 So hung vpon with loue, so fortunate?  
 (But miserable most, to loue vnlov'd)  
 This you shoule pittie, rather then despise. 235

*Her.* I vnderstand not what you meane by this.

*Hel.* I, doe, perseuer, counterfeit sad lookes,  
 Make mouthes vpon me when I turne my backe,  
 Winke each at other, hold the sweete ieft vp:  
 This sport well carried, shall be chronicled. 240  
 If you haue any pittie, grace, or manners,  
 You would not make me such an argument:  
 But fare ye well, 'tis partly mine owne fault,  
 Which death or absence foone shall remedie.

*Lys.* Stay gentle *Helena*, heare my excuse, 245  
 My loue, my life, my soule, faire *Helena*.

*Hel.* O excellent!

*Her.* Sweete, do not scorne her so.

*Dem.* If she cannot entreate, I can compell.

*Lys.* Thou canst compell, no more then she entreate.  
 Thy threats haue no more stregth then her weak praise. 250  
*Hel.* I loue thee, by my life I doe;

I fweare by that which I will lose for thee,  
 To proue him false, that saies I loue thee not.

*Dem.* I say, I loue thee more then he can do.

*Lys.* If thou say so, with-draw and proue it too. 255

*Dem.* Quick, come.

*Her.* *Lysander*, whereto tends all this?

*Lys.* Away, you *Ethiope*.

*Dem.* No, no, Sir, feeme to breake loose;  
 Take on as you would follow,  
 But yet come not: you are a tame man, go.

225 mee F 226 mee F 227 nymph F 228 Pretious F ,]om. F this, F  
 228 wherfore F 229 -ny FR 230 mee F 232 What, F 233 -ty R 236 not, F  
 237 I doe, F do R -faire F ,]: F 238 mee, F back: F 239 FR 237  
 sweete F ieast FR ,]: F 240 bee F 241 -ty FR 242 mee F ,]: FR  
 243 faryewell R ,]: F tis FR mine] my F ,]: F 244 death, F -dy FR  
 245 Stay, F -na: F 247 doe F 248 entreat F 249 ,]om. F more, F  
 intreat F 250 weake FR 251 ,]: F 252 loose F ,]: F 253 proue F  
 255 withdrawe, F proue F to FR 256 Quick come F 257 -of F No,  
 no: heele/Seeme to breake loose: take on as you would follow;/ F  
 Sir,] hee'l R 259 ,]: F

*Lyf.* Hang off thou cat, thou bur; vile thing let loose, 260  
Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.

*Her.* Why are you growne so rude?  
What change is this sweete Loue?

*Lyf.* Thy loue? out tawny *Tartar*, out;  
Out loathed medicine; O hated poison hence.

*Her.* Do you not iest? 265  
*Hel.* Yes footh, and so do you.

*Lyf. Demetrius:* I will keepe my word with thee.  
*Dem.* I would I had your bond: for I perceiue

A weake bond holds you; Ile not trust your word.

*Lyf.* What, should I hurt her, strike her, kill her dead?  
Although I hate her, Ile not harme her so. 270

*Her.* What, can you do me greater harme then hate?  
Hate me, wherefore? O me, what newes my Loue? [1552]

Am not I *Hermia*? Are not you *Lyfander*?

I am as faire now, as I was ere while.

Since night you lou'd me; yet since night you left me. 275

Why then you left me (O the gods forbid

In earnest, shall I say?)

*Lyf.* I, by my life;  
And neuer did desire to see thee more.  
Therefore be out of hope, of question, of doubt;  
Be certaine, nothing truer: 'tis no iest, 280  
That I doe hate thee, and loue *Helena*.

*Her.* O me, you iugler, you canker blosome,  
You theefe of loue; What, haue you come by night,  
And stolne my loues heart from him?

*Hel.* Fine yfaith:  
Haue you no modesty, no maiden shame, 285  
No touch of bashfulnesse? What, will you teare  
Impatient answers from my gentle tongue?  
Fie, fie, you counterfeit, you puppet, you.

*Her.* Puppet? why so? I, that way goes the game.  
Now I perceiue that she hath made compare 290  
Betweene our statures, she hath vrg'd her height,  
And with her personage, her tall personage,  
Her height (forsooth) she hath preuail'd with him.  
And are you growne so high in his esteeme,

<sup>230</sup> of F ;]: F ;] F <sup>261</sup> mee, F <sup>262</sup> rude? What change is this, / F  
this, R <sup>233</sup> ;]: F <sup>234</sup> medicine: F poison] potion F <sup>265</sup> Doe F iest FR  
;]: F doe F <sup>236</sup> ;], FR word, F <sup>237</sup> ;]. F -ceiue, FR <sup>268</sup> ;]. F  
<sup>239</sup> FR38 What? F <sup>271</sup> What? FR harme, F <sup>272</sup> Hate mee F  
newes, F <sup>275</sup> night, F mee F night, F mee F <sup>276</sup> then, F mee F  
-bid) FR <sup>277</sup> ;]: F <sup>279</sup> Thefore F ;]: F <sup>280</sup> ;]: F ; R ;]: R tis no  
iest FR <sup>281</sup> do R <sup>282</sup> mee F iuggler FR <sup>283</sup> ;]: F <sup>284</sup> heart, F  
Fine, I faith. F ifaith. R <sup>287</sup> answeres, F <sup>288</sup> Fy, fy F -faid F fet R  
<sup>290</sup> -pare, F <sup>292</sup> tall par- R <sup>293</sup> -uaid FR

Because I am so dwarfish, and so low?  
How low am I, thou painted May-pole? Speake,  
How low am I? I am not yet so low,  
But that my nailes can reach vnto thine eyes.

*Hel.* I pray you though you mocke me, gentlemen,  
Let her not hurt me; I was neuer curst:  
I haue no gift at all in shrewishnesse;  
I am a right maide for my cowardize;  
Let her not strike me: you perhaps may thinke,  
Because she is something lower then my selfe,  
That I can match her.

*Her.* Lower? harke againe.

*Hel.* Good *Hermia*, do not be so bitter with me,  
I euermore did loue you *Hermia*,  
Did euer keepe your counsels, neuer wronged you,  
Sauē that in loue vnto *Demetrius*,  
I told him of your stealth vnto this wood.  
He followed you, for loue I followed him,  
But he hath chid me hence, and threatned me  
To strike me, spurne me, nay to kill me too;  
And now, so you will let me quiet go,  
To *Athens* will I beare my folly backe,  
And follow you no further. Let me go.  
You see how simple, and how fond I am.

*Her.* Why get you gone: whoift that hinders you?

*Hel.* A foolish heart, that I leaue here behinde.

*Her.* What, with *Lysander*?

320

*Her.* With *Demetrius*.

*Lys.* Be not afraid, she shall not harme thee *Helena*.

*Dem.* No fir, she shall not, though you take her part.

*Hel.* O when she's angry, she is keene and shrewd,  
She was a vixen when she went to schoole,  
And though she be but little, she is fierce.

325

*Her.* Little againe? Nothing but low and little?  
Why will you suffer her to flout me thus?  
Let me come to her.

*Lys.* Get you gone you dwarfe,  
You *minimus*, of hindring knot-graffe made,  
You bead, you acorne.

*Dem.* You are too officious,

330

295, lom. FR lowe F 296 lowe F Speake: F 297 lowe F lowe F  
299 pray you, F gentleman F 300 ;, F 301 ;, F 302 FR 39 maid, F  
maid R ;, F 313 mee. F -haps, F 306 mee F 308 wrongd F ,; F  
310 loue, F 310 tould F 311 ;, F 312 loue, F ,; F 312 mee F 313 mee F  
mee ; F mee to. F to R 314 goe FR 316 goe F 318 Why? F gon. F  
319 heere R behind F 320 *Hel.* With FR 321 ;, F 322 fir: F 323 O, F  
she's] she is F shee's R shrewd. F 324 -en, F ,; F 325 but] hut F  
327 floute F 328 gon, F ,; F 329 knot graffe, F knot graffe R ,; F

In her behalfe that scornes your feraices.  
 Let her alone, speake not of *Helena*,  
 Take not her part. For if thou dost intend  
 Neuer so little shew of loue to her,  
 Thou shalt abide it.

[156<sup>1</sup>]

335

*Lys.* Now she holds me not,  
 Now follow if thou dar'st, to try whose right,  
 Of thine or mine is most in *Helena*.

*Dem.* Follow? Nay, Ile goe with thee cheeke by  
 iowle. *Exit Lysander and Demetrius.*

*Her.* You Mistris, all this coyle is long of you.  
 Nay, goe not backe.

340

*Hel.* I will not trust you I,  
 Nor longer stay in your curst companie.  
 Your hands then mine, are quicker for a fray,  
 My legs are longer though to runne away.

*Enter Oberon and Pucke.*

*Ob.* This is thy negligence, still thou mistak'ft,  
 Or else committ'ft thy knaueries willingly.

345

*Puck.* Beleeue me, King of shadowes, I mistooke,  
 Did not you tell me, I shoule know the man,  
 By the *Athenian* garments he hath on?  
 And so farre blameleffe proues my enterprize,  
 That I haue nointed an *Athenians* eies,  
 And so farre am I glad, it so did sort,  
 As this their iangling I esteeme a sport.

350

*Ob.* Thou feest these Louers seeke a place to fight,  
 Hie therefore *Robin*, ouercast the night,  
 The starrie Welkin couer thou anon,  
 With drooping fogge as blacke as *Acheron*,  
 And lead these testie Riuals so astray,  
 As one come not within anothers way.  
 Like to *Lysander*, sometime frame thy tongue,  
 Then stirre *Demetrius* vp with bitter wrong;  
 And sometime raile thou like *Demetrius*;  
 And from each other looke thou leade them thus,

355

360

331 behalfe, F 332 alone: F 333 FR40 334 shewe F 335 aby F abie R  
 holdes F ,]: F 336 -low, F 337 mine, FR 338 ,]: F go FR thee, F  
*Exit Lysander and Demetrius.*] om. F *Exit.* R 339 You, F mistrefse FR  
 340 ,]: F you, F 341 Not R -ny FR 342 hands, F than FR fray: F  
 343 legges F though, F 344 *Her.* I am amaz'd, and know not what to  
 say. *Exeunt.* FR om. Folio *Enter Oberon and Pucke.*] om. FR  
 345 gence: F 346 -mitt'ft R -willfully] wilfully FR 347 mee F  
 shaddowes R -tooke. FR 348 mee, I shoud F 349 -ments, F hath] had F  
 350 And, F proues F -prise F 351 eyes FR ,]: F 352 feest, F ,]: F  
 355 Hy F 356 -ry FR 358 leade R teasty F -ty R 360 tongue: F  
 361 vp, F ,]: F 362 ,]: F 363 other, F lead F ,]: F

Till ore their browes, death-counterfeiting, sleepe  
With leaden legs, and Battie-wings doth creepe ; 365  
Then crush this hearbe into *Lysanders* eie,  
Whose liquor hath this vertuous propertie,  
To take from thence all error, with his might,  
And make his eie-bals role with wonted fight.  
When they next wake, all this derision 370  
Shall seeme a dreame, and fruitleffe vision,  
And backe to *Athens* shall the Louers wend  
With league, whose date till death shall neuer end.  
Whiles I in this affaire do thee imply,  
Ile to my Queene, and beg her *Indian* Boy ; 375  
And then I will her charmed eie release  
From monsters view, and all things shall be peace.

*Puck.* My Fairie Lord, this must be done with haste,  
For night-swift Dragons cut the Clouds full fast,  
And yonder shines *Auroras* harbinger ; 380  
At whose approach Ghofts wandring here and there,  
Troope home to Church-yards ; damned spirits all,  
That in crosse-waies and floods haue buriall,  
Alreadie to their wormie beds are gone ;  
For feare leaft day should looke their shames vpon, 385  
They wilfully themselues dxile from light,  
And must for aye confort with blacke browd night.

*Ob.* But we are spirits of another sort :  
I, with the mornings loue haue oft made sport,  
And like a Forrester, the groues may tread, 390  
Euen till the Easterne gate all fierie red,  
Opening on *Neptune*, with faire blessed beames,  
Turnes into yellow gold, his salt greene streames.  
But notwithstanding haste, make no delay : [156<sup>2</sup>]  
We may effect this busynesse, yet ere day. 395

*Puck.* Vp and downe, vp and downe, I will leade  
them vp and downe : I am fear'd in field and towne.  
*Goblin,* lead them vp and downe : here comes one. 400

*Enter Lysander.*

*Lys.* Where art thou, proud *Demetrius*?  
Speake thou now.

364 -faiting, sleepe, F 365 ledgs R Batty wings FR ;: F 366 FR41  
eye ; F 367 -ty FR 368 -our F 369 eyebals F roule F rolle R  
371 fruitleffe F 372 wend, F 373 date, F 374 I, F -faire, doe, F im-  
ply] imploy F apply R 375 ,lom. F ;: F 376 eye F 377 viewe F  
378 Faery F hafte. F 379 nights swift F night swift R 380 ;: F 381 ap-  
proach, F approch R Ghofts, F heere R 382 ,lom. F ;: F 383 crosse  
waies FR floods F 384 -dy FR -my FR ;: F 385 exile FR 387 aie R  
black browed F 388 ;: F 389 loue, F 390 tread,] tread F 391 -ry FR  
393 Turnes, F golde F 394 notwifstandig, F ;: R 396 down F down F  
397 lead F dowe. F 398 town F 399 ;: F 401 Speak FR now./ FR

*Rob.* Here villaine, drawne & readie. Where art thou?

*Lys.* I will be with thee straight.

*Rob.* Follow me then to plainer ground.

*Enter Demetrius.*

*Dem.* *Lysander,* speake againe;

Thou runaway, thou coward, art thou fled?

Speake in some bush: Where doft thou hide thy head?

405

*Rob.* Thou coward, art thou bragging to the stars,

Telling the bushes that thou look'ſt for wars,

And wilt not come? Come recreant, come thou childe,

Ile whip thee with a rod. He is defil'd

410

That drawes a sword on thee.

*Dem.* Yea, art thou there?

*Rob.* Follow my voice, we'l try no manhood here.

*Exit.*

*Lys.* He goes before me, and still dares me on,  
When I come where he cals, then he's gone.

The villaine is much lighter heel'd then I:

I followed fast, but faster he did flye; *shifting places.*

That fallen am I in darke vneuen way,

And here wil rest me. Come thou gentle day: *lye down.*

For if but once thou shew me thy gray light,

Ile finde *Demetrius*, and reuenge this spight.

420

*Enter Robin and Demetrius.*

*Rob.* Ho, ho, ho; coward, why com'ſt thou not?

*Dem.* Abide me, if thou dar'ſt. For well I wot,  
Thou runſt before me, ſhifting euery place,

And dar'ſt not ſtand, nor looke me in the face.

Where art thou?

425

*Rob.* Come hither, I am here.

*Dem.* Nay then thou mock'ſt me; thou ſhalt buy this  
deere,

If euer I thy face by day-light ſee.

Now goe thy way: faintneſſe conſtraineth me,  
To meaſure out my length on this cold bed,

By daies approach looke to be viſited.

430

402-dy FR 403 FR 42 404 ;]. F 406 ;]. FR doeft F 407 ;]. om. F  
-ing, F starres F 408 warres FR 410 whippe F rodde F defil'd, F  
412 ;]. F weeble F wee'l R *Exit* FR 413 on : F 414 calles FR he  
is F hee's R gon F 415 ;]. FR 416 ;]. F fly F flie R *shifting places.*] om. FR 417 vneauen F 418 will FR ;]. F *lye down.*] om. FR 419 once, F  
ſhewe F 420 *Enter*] om. FR Robin, F 421 ;]. F comit F 422 mee F  
425 Where art thou now? F ;]. F 426 mockſt FR ;]. F ſhat F dear F  
deare R 427 day light F 428 Now, F ;]. F mee F 429 -ure, F  
length, F ;]. F 430 approach R

*Enter Helena.*

*Hel.* O weary night, O long and tedious night,  
 Abate thy houres, shine comforts from the East,  
 That I may backe to *Athens* by day-light,  
 From thefe that my poore companie detest ;  
 And sleepe that sometime shuts vp forrowes eie,

435  
*Sleepe.*

Steale me a while from mine owne companie.

*Rob.* Yet but three ? Come one more,

Two of both kindes makes vp foure.

Here she comes, curst and sad,

*Cupid* is a knauish lad,

440

*Enter Hermia.*

Thus to make poore females mad.

*Her.* Neuer so wearie, neuer so in woe,  
 Bedabbled with the dew, and torne with briars,  
 I can no further crawle, no further goe ;  
 My legs can keepe no pace with my defires.

445

Here will I rest me till the breake of day,  
 Heauens shied *Lyfander*, if they meane a fray.

*Rob.* On the ground sleepe found,  
 Ile apply your eie gentle louer, remedy.

450

When thou wak'ft, thou tak'ft  
 True delight in the fight of thy former Ladies eye,

455  
[157]And the Country Proverb knowne,  
 That every man shoud take his owne,  
 In your waking shall be showne.

460

*Iacke* shall haue *Till*, nought shall goe ill,  
 The man shall haue his Mare againe, and all shall bee  
 well.

*They sleepe all the Act.*

432 FR 43 -forts, F ,]: F 433 *Athens*, F day light F 434 -ny FR  
 ,]: F 435 sleepe, F -times FR eye F 436 mee F -ny R 437 ,]: F  
 438 fower F 439 Heare shee F sadde. F 440 ladde F *Enter Hermia.* ]  
 om. F 441 madde F 442 -ry FR 443 deaw F briers : F 444 ;]: F  
 445 legges F pase F 446 mee, F ,]: F 447 shielde F 448 ground, F  
 449 ,]: F 451 eye, F 455 delight, F 456 fight, F 457 eie R ,]: F  
 458 -erbe FR 460 showen F 461 ,]: F 462 go R ,]: F 463 again F  
 be FR *They sleepe all the Act.* ] om. FR

## Actus Quartus.

Enter Queene of Fairies, and Clowne, and Fairies, and the King behinde them.

*Tita.* Come, sit thee downe vpon this flowry bed,  
While I thy amiable cheeke doe coy,  
And sticke muske roses in thy fleeke smoothe head,  
And kisse thy faire large eares, my gentle ioy.

*Clow.* Where's *Peafe-blossome*?

5

*Peaf.* Ready.

*Clow.* Scratch my head, *Peafe-blossome*. Wher's Moun-  
sieur *Cobweb*.

*Cob.* Ready.

*Clowne.* Mounsiuer *Cobweb*, good Mounsiuer get your  
weapons in your hand, & kill me a red hipt humble-Bee  
on the top of a thistle; and good Mounsiuer bring mee  
the hony bag. Doe not fret your selfe too much in the  
action, Mounsiuer; and good Mounsiuer haue a care the  
hony bag breake not, I would be loth to haue yon ouer-  
flowne with a hony-bag signiour. Where's Mounsiuer  
*Mustardseed*?

10

*Musf.* Ready.

*Clo.* Giue me your neafe, Mounsiuer *Mustardseed*.  
Pray you leauue your courtesie good Mounsiuer.

20

*Musf.* What's your will?

*Clo.* Nothing good Mounsiuer, but to help Caualery  
*Cobweb* to scratch. I must to the Barbers Mounsiuer, for  
me-thinkes I am maruellous hairy about the face. And I  
am such a tender asse, if my haire do but tickle me, I must  
scratch.

25

*Tita.* What, wilt thou heare some musicke, my sweet  
loue.

*Clow.* I haue a reaonable good eare in musicke. Let  
vs haue the tongs and the bones.

*Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.*

*Actus Quartus.] om. FR* Faieries F Faieries : R <sup>1</sup>Come sit FR  
<sup>2</sup>do R <sup>3</sup>sticke musk F smoothe F <sup>5</sup>*Peafe-blossome* FR <sup>7</sup>heade F  
 -sieur FR <sup>8</sup>].P FR <sup>10</sup>FR44 -sieur, F -sieur R [get] get you F  
<sup>11</sup>Humble Bee F <sup>12</sup>toppe F ;] F -sieur, F me R <sup>13</sup>bagge F  
 much, F <sup>14</sup>;] F care, F <sup>15</sup>honybagge F wold be loath F you FR  
 -flowen F <sup>16</sup>honibag *signior* F <sup>17</sup>*seede* F <sup>18</sup>-die F <sup>19</sup>*seede* F  
<sup>20</sup>you, F curtie, F -sie, R <sup>21</sup>wil R <sup>22</sup>helpe FR <sup>23</sup>-webbe, F -bers, F  
 ]. F <sup>24</sup>me thinkes F -uailes F -uailous R <sup>25</sup>doe F mee F <sup>27</sup>some  
 some R -fique F -sick R sweete F ].P FR <sup>28</sup>-sique F Let vs] Lets F  
<sup>29</sup>tongs, F *Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.] om. FR*

*Tita.* Or say sweete Loue, what thou desirest to eat. 30

*Clowne.* Truly a pecke of Prouender; I could mounch your good dry Oates. Me-thinkes I haue a great desire to a bottle of hay: good hay, sweete hay hath no fel-low.

*Tita.* I haue a venturous Fairy, 35  
That shall seeke the Squirrels hoard,  
And fetch thee new Nuts.

*Clown.* I had rather haue a handfull or two of dried pease. But I pray you let none of your people stirre me, I haue an exposition of sleepe come vpon me.

*Tyta.* Sleepe thou, and I will winde thee in my arms, 40  
Fairies be gone, and be alwaies away.  
So doth the woodbine, the sweet Honifuckle,  
Gently entwist; the female Iuy so  
Enrings the barky fingers of the Elme.  
O how I loue thee! how I dote on thee!

45 [157<sup>2</sup>]

*Enter Robin goodfellow and Oberon.*

*Ob.* Welcome good *Robin*:  
Seest thou this sweet fight?  
Her dotage now I doe begin to pitty.  
For meeting her of late behinde the wood,  
Seeking sweet fauors for this hatefull foole,  
I did vpbraid her, and fall out with her. 50  
For she his hairy temples then had rounded,  
With coronet of fresh and fragrant flowers.  
And that fame dew which somtime on the buds,  
Was wont to swell like round and orient pearles;  
Stood now within the pretty flouriets eyes, 55  
Like teares that did their owne disgrace bewaile.  
When I had at my pleasure taunted her,  
And she in milde termes beg'd my patience,  
I then did aske of her, her changeling childe,  
Which straight she gaue me, and her Fairy sent 60  
To beare him to my Bower in Fairy Land.  
And now I haue the Boy, I will vndoe  
This hatefull imperfection of her eyes.

<sup>30</sup> Or, F eate FR <sup>31</sup>Truely FR -uander. F mounch FR <sup>32</sup> Me thinkes, F <sup>33</sup>:]. F <sup>35-6</sup> I have a venturous Fairy, that shall seeke the Squirils hoord, / And fetch thee newe nuts. F <sup>37</sup>-full, F <sup>38</sup> dried F <sup>39</sup> But, F <sup>40</sup> you: F <sup>41</sup> stir R <sup>42</sup>:]. F <sup>43</sup> mee F <sup>44</sup> armes FR <sup>45</sup> and Oberon]om. FR <sup>46</sup> :]. F <sup>47</sup> fweete F <sup>48</sup> fight?/ FR <sup>49</sup> do R -ginne F -tie F <sup>50</sup> late, F <sup>51</sup> fweete FR <sup>52</sup> fauors] fauours F <sup>53</sup> deawe F sometime F <sup>54</sup> buddes F <sup>55</sup> swell, F <sup>56</sup> eies R <sup>57</sup> teares, F <sup>58</sup> had, F <sup>59</sup> ure, F <sup>60</sup> she, F <sup>61</sup> tearmes, F <sup>62</sup> tearmes R <sup>63</sup> begd FR <sup>64</sup> childe: F <sup>65</sup> mee F <sup>66</sup> him, F <sup>67</sup> bower, F -rie F <sup>68</sup> eies R

And gentle *Pucke*, take this transformed scalpe,  
From off the head of this *Athenian* swaine ;  
That he awaking when the other doe,  
May all to *Athens* backe againe repaire,  
And thinke no more of this nights accidents,  
But as the fierce vexation of a dreame.  
But first I will release the Fairy Queene.

65

70

*Be thou as thou waſt wont to be;*  
*See as thou waſt wont to ſee.*  
*Dians bud, or Cupids flower,*  
*Hath ſuch force and bleſſed power.*

Now my *Titania* wake you my sweet Queene.

75

*Tita.* My *Oberon*, what viſions haue I ſeene !  
Me-thought I was enamoured of an *Aſſe*.

*Ob.* There lies your loue.

*Tita.* How came theſe things to paſſe ?  
Oh, how mine eyes doth loath this viſage now !

*Ob.* Silence a while. *Robin* take off his head :  
*Titania*, muſick call, and ſtrike more dead  
Then common ſleepe ; of all theſe, fine the ſenſe.

80

*Tita.* Muſicke, ho muſicke, ſuch as charmeth ſleepe.

*Muſick fill.*

*Rob.* When thou wakſt, with thine owne fooles eies  
peepe. (me)

*Ob.* Sound muſick ; come my Queen, take hands with  
And rocke the ground whereon theſe ſleepers be.

85

Now thou and I are new in amity,  
And will to morrow midnight, ſolemnly  
Dance in Duke *Theseus* houſe triumphantly,  
And bleſſe it to all faire posterity.

90

There ſhall the paieres of faithfull Louers be  
Wedded, with *Theseus*, all in iollity.

*Rob.* Faire King attend, and marke,  
I doe heare the morning Larke.

*Ob.* Then my Queene in silence ſad,  
Trip we after the nights ſhade ;

95

<sup>64</sup> And, F *Puck* F <sup>65</sup> off] of F heade F <sup>66</sup>hee, F do FR <sup>69</sup>fearce F  
<sup>71</sup> *Be thou*] Be, F *Be* R bee : F <sup>72</sup>See, F <sup>73</sup>buſſe F <sup>74</sup>force, F  
<sup>75</sup> Now, F <sup>76</sup>-nia, F <sup>77</sup>you, FR <sup>78</sup>ſweete FR <sup>77</sup>Me thought F <sup>79</sup>-ourd F  
-ored R <sup>78</sup>lyes F loue. / FR<sup>46</sup> <sup>79</sup>O F eies R doth] doe F loathe R  
this] his F <sup>80</sup>Robin, F of R his] this FR <sup>81</sup>]: R <sup>81</sup>-ſicke FR <sup>82</sup>]: F  
<sup>83</sup> Muſick, howe muſick : F *Muſick fill.*] om. FR <sup>84</sup> When] Now, when F  
own fools eyes F <sup>85</sup>peep R <sup>86</sup>]: F come, F me, F <sup>87</sup>Now, F <sup>88</sup>-tie F  
<sup>89</sup> ſolemnely F <sup>89</sup>Daunce, F <sup>90</sup>posterity] proſperitie F <sup>92</sup>-tie F  
<sup>93</sup> Fairy King, FR attend and R marke : F <sup>94</sup>do FR <sup>95</sup>Queene, F  
<sup>96</sup> Trippe F the] om. F <sup>97</sup>]: F

We the Globe can compasse foone,  
Swifter then the wandring Moone.

*Tita.* Come my Lord, and in our flight,  
Tell me how it came this night, 100  
That I sleeping heere was found,

With these mortals on the ground. *Sleepers Lye still.*  
*Excunt.* [158<sup>1</sup>]  
*Winde Hornes.*

*Enter Theseus, Egeus, Hippolita and all his traine.*

*Thes.* Goe one of you, finde out the Forrester,  
For now our obseruation is perform'd ;  
And sinc we haue the vaward of the day, 105  
My Loue shall haire the musick of my hounds.  
Vncouple in the Westerne valley, let them goe ;  
Dispatch I say, and finde the Forrester.  
We will faire Queene, vp to the Mountaines top.  
And marke the musicall confusion 110  
Of hounds and echo in coniunction.

*Hip.* I was with *Hercules* and *Cadmus* once,  
When in a wood of *Creete* they bayed the Beare  
With hounds of *Sparta* ; neuer did I heare 115  
Such gallant chiding. For besides the groues,  
The skies, the fountaines, euery region neere,  
Seeme all one muthal cry. I neuer heard  
So musicall a discord, such sweet thunder.

*Thes.* My hounds are bred out of the *Spartan* kinde,  
So flew'd, so fanded, and their heads are hung 120  
With eares that sweepe away the morning dew,  
Crooke kneed, and dew-lapt, like *Thessalian* Buls,  
Slow in pursuite, but match'd in mouth like bels,  
Each vnder each. A cry more tuneable  
Was neuer hallowed to, nor cheer'd with horne, 125  
In *Creete*, in *Sparta*, nor in *Thessaly* ;  
Iudge when you heare. Bnt soft, what nimphs are these?

*Egeus.* My Lord, this is my daughter heere asleepe,  
And this *Lyfander*, this *Demetrius* is, 130  
This *Helena*, olde *Nedars Helena*,  
I wonder of this being heere together.

<sup>97</sup> We, the Globe, F <sup>99</sup> flight. R <sup>101</sup> here F *Sleepers Lye still.*] om. FR  
<sup>102</sup> horne. F <sup>103</sup> Enter Theseus and all his traine. FR <sup>103</sup> ster: F  
<sup>104</sup> forme. F <sup>107</sup> -ple, F -lie F go R ;] F <sup>109</sup> Wee will, F toppe F  
 J, FR <sup>111</sup> Echo F <sup>112</sup> FR47 -mus, F <sup>113</sup> Beare, F <sup>114</sup> ;] F <sup>116</sup> skyes F  
 neare F <sup>117</sup> Jom. F <sup>118</sup> sweete FR <sup>119</sup> -ane F <sup>120</sup> J: F <sup>121</sup> fanded: F  
<sup>121</sup> eares, F deawe F <sup>122</sup> deawlap F Buls: F <sup>123</sup> Slowe F -suite R  
 J; F matcht FR <sup>124</sup> tunable F <sup>125</sup> hollowd FR cheerd F <sup>126</sup> J. F  
<sup>127</sup> But FR <sup>128</sup> is] om. F a sleepe F <sup>130</sup> old F  
 J. F <sup>131</sup> this] their F here F

*The.* No doubt they rose vp early, to obserue  
The right of May ; and hearing our intent,  
Came heere in grace of our solemnyt.

But speake *Egeus*, is not this the day  
That *Hermia* should giue answere of her choice ?

*Egeus.* It is, my Lord.

*Theſ.* Goe bid the huntſ-men wake them with their  
horns.

*Hornes and they wake.*

*Shout within, they all start vp.*

*Theſ.* Good morrow friends: Saint *Valentine* is past,  
Begin these wood birds but to couple now ?

*Lyf.* Pardon my Lord.

*Theſ.* I pray you all stand vp.  
I know you two are Riuall enemies.

How comes this gentle concord in the world,  
That hatred is so farre from iealousie,  
To fleepe by hate, and feare no enmyt.

*Lyf.* My Lord, I ſhall reply amazedly,  
Halfe fleepe, halfe waking. But as yet, I ſweare,  
I cannot truly ſay how I came heere.  
But as I thinke (for truly would I ſpeake)  
And now I doe bethinke me, ſo it is ;

I came with *Hermia* hither. Our intent  
Was to be gone from *Athens*, where we might be  
Without the perill of the *Athenian Law*.

*Ege.* Enough, enough, my Lord : you haue enough ;  
I beg the Law, the Law, vpon his head :  
They would haue ſtolne away, they would *Demetrius*,  
Thereby to haue defeated you and me :  
You of your wife, and me of my consent ;  
Of my consent, that ſhe ſhould be your wife.

*Dem.* My Lord, faire *Helen* told me of their stealth,  
Of this their purpoſe hither, to this wood,  
And I in furie hither followed them ;

Faire *Helena*, in fancy followed me.  
But my good Lord, I wot not by what power,  
(But by ſome power it is) my loue

To *Hermia* (melted as the ſnow)

<sup>132</sup> doubt, F earely F <sup>133</sup> ;] : F <sup>134</sup> heere, F -tie F <sup>135</sup> ſpeake, F day, F  
<sup>136</sup> choyce F choyſe R <sup>138</sup> Goe, F Go R -]om. FR *Hornes and they*  
*wake*] *Winde hornes* FR *Shoute within* : F <sup>139</sup> -row, F :] ,F ,] ,F  
<sup>140</sup> woodbirds F -ple, F <sup>141</sup> -don, FR all, F <sup>142</sup> know, F <sup>143</sup> worlde F  
<sup>144</sup> is]is FR <sup>145</sup> FR48 -tie, F <sup>146</sup> -hal F <sup>147</sup> But, F <sup>148</sup> truely FR  
here FR <sup>149</sup> truely FR <sup>150</sup> do R mee F <sup>151</sup> -mia, F <sup>152</sup> gon F  
,] : F be]om. F <sup>153</sup> lawe, F <sup>154</sup> enough my FR ;] ,F <sup>155</sup> begge F  
<sup>156</sup> would, De- FR <sup>158</sup> mee, F ;] : F <sup>162</sup> -ry FR <sup>163</sup> following mee F  
<sup>164</sup> wote F ,]om. FR <sup>165</sup> loue, F <sup>166</sup> ſnowe F Seemes FR

Seems to me now as the remembrance of an idle gaudie,  
Which in my childehood I did doat vpon :

And all the faith, the vertue of my heart,  
The obiect and the pleasure of mine eye,

170

Is onely *Helena*. To her, my Lord,

Was I betroth'd, ere I see *Hermia*,

But like a fickeneffe did I loath this food,

But as in health, come to my naturall taste,

Now doe I wish it, loue it, long for it,

175

And will for euermore be true to it.

*Thes.* Faire Louers, you are fortunately met ;  
Of this discourse we shall heare more anon.

*Egeus,* I will ouer-beare your will ;

180

For in the Temple, by and by with vs,

These couples shall eternally be knit.

And for the morning now is something worne,

Our purpos'd hunting shall be set aside.

Away, with vs to *Athens* ; three and three,

Wee'll hold a feast in great'solemnitie.

185

Come *Hippolite*.

*Exit Duke and Lords.*

*Dem.* These things feeme small & vndistinguifable,  
Like farre off mountaines turned into Clouds.

*Her.* Me-thinks I see these things with parted eye,  
When ev ery things feemes double.

190

*Hel.* So me-thinkes :

And I haue found *Demetrius*, like a iewell,  
Mine owne, and not mine owne.

*Dem.* It feemes to mee,

That yet we sleepe, we dreame. Do not you thinke,  
The Duke was heere, and bid vs follow him ?

195

*Her.* Yea, and my Father.

*Hel.* And *Hippolite*.

*Lys.* And he bid vs follow to the Temple.

*Dem.* Why then we are awake ; lets follow him, and  
by the way let vs recount our dreames.

*Bottome wakes.*

*Exit Louers.*

*Clo.* When my cue comes, call me, and I will answere. 200

<sup>168</sup> -hoode F dote FR <sup>170</sup> eie R <sup>172</sup> betrothed F bethroth'd R  
-mia : F <sup>173</sup> But, F fickeneffe, FR loathe R foode. F <sup>174</sup> But, F  
175 doe I] I doe F do I R <sup>177</sup> ;] F <sup>178</sup> -course, FR shall heare more] more will here F will heare more R <sup>179</sup> F49 -]om. FR ;] F <sup>180</sup> R49  
by, with F <sup>182</sup> And, F somthing F <sup>184</sup> vs, F ;] F <sup>185</sup> Weele F  
Wee'l R holde F feast, F -ty R <sup>186-6</sup> *Hippolita*.] F <sup>187</sup> *Exit Duke and Lords.*] om. F <sup>189</sup> Me thinks F things, F eie R <sup>190</sup> thing FR  
me thinks F <sup>191</sup> fonnd F <sup>192-3</sup> *Dem.* It feemes] *Dem.* Are you fure/  
That we are awake ? It feemes FR <sup>193</sup> me FR <sup>195</sup> here F <sup>196</sup> *Hippolita* F  
197 bid] did bid F <sup>198</sup> then, F ;] F let's R <sup>199</sup> let vs] lets F <sup>200</sup> *Exit Louers.*] om. F <sup>201</sup> *Exit.* R *Bottome wakes.*] om. FR <sup>202</sup> mee F answere F

My next is, most faire *Piramus*. Hey ho. *Peter Quince*? *Flute* the bellowes-mender? *Snout* the tinker? *Starueling*? Gods my life! Stolne hence, and left me asleepe: I haue had a most rare vision. I had a dreame, past the wit of man, to say, what dreame it was. Man is but an Affe, 205 if he goe about to expound this dreame. Me-thought I was, there is no man can tell what. Me-thought I was, and me-thought I had. But man is but a patch'd foole, if he will offer to fay, what me-thought I had. The eye of man hath not heard, the eare of man hath not seen, mans 210 hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceiue, nor his heart to report, what my dreame was. I will get *Peter Quince* to write a ballet of this dreame, it shall be called *Bottomes Dreame*, because it hath no bottome; and I will sing it in the latter end of a play, before the Duke. Per- 215 aduenture, to make it the more gracious, I shall sing it at her death.

*Exit.*

*Enter Quince, Flute, Thisbie, Snout, and Starueling.* [IV. 2.]

*Quin.* Haue you sent to *Bottomes* houfe? Is he come home yet?

*Staru.* He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt hee is transported.

*This.* If he come not, then the play is mar'd. It goes 5 [159<sup>1</sup>] not forward, doth it?

*Quin.* It is not possible: you haue not a man in all *Athens*, able to discharge *Piramus* but he.

*This.* No, hee hath simply the best wit of any handycraft man in *Athens*.

*Quin.* Yea, and the best person too, and hee is a very Paramour, for a sweet voyce.

*This.* You must say, Paragon. A Paramour is (God bleffe vs) a thing of nought.

*Enter Snug the Joyners.*

*Snug.* Masters, the Duke is comming from the Temple, and there is two or three Lords & Ladies more maried: If our sport had gone forward, we had all bin made men.

201 *Pyramus*, F 202 *Flute*, F bellowes men- F 203 mee a  
fleepe? F 204 I had] I haue had FR 205 fay; F 206 hee F go R  
to] om. F Me thought F 207 Me thought F 208 me thought F a  
patch'd] patch a FR 209 hee F mee thought F eie R 210 feene FR  
211 F50 212 hearte F dream/ R50 213 dream R ,]: F call'd FR  
214 -toms F ,]: F ,]: F 216 gratious F 217 *Exit.*] om. F -bie,] by F  
*Snout, and Starueling*] and the rabble FR 1 -toms F 2 home, F 3 *Staru.*]  
*Flut.* FR Hee F ,]: F hee F 5 hee F mard FR 6 ,]: F 7 ,]: F  
man, F 8 *Pyramus*, F 9 he R 10 man, F 11 to F he R 12 sweete FR  
voice F 13 *Snug*, F 17 ,]: FR gon F wee F beene FR

*This.* O sweet bully *Bottome*: thus hath he lost fifteen pence a day, during his life; he could not haue scaped six pence a day. And the Duke had not giuen him sixpence a day for playing *Piramus*, Ile be hang'd. He would haue deserued it. Sixpence a day in *Piramus*, or nothing.

20

*Enter Bottome.*

*Bot.* Where are these Lads? Where are these hearts?

*Quin.* *Bottome*, ô most couragious day! O most happy hour!

25

*Bot.* Masters, I am to discourse wonders; but ask me not what. For if I tell you, I am no true *Athenian*. I will tell you euery thing as it fell out.

*Qu.* Let vs heare, sweet *Bottome*.

30

*Bot.* Not a word of me: all that I will tell you, is, that the Duke hath dined. Get your apparell together, good strings to your beards, new ribbands to your pumps, meete preſently at the Palace, every man looke ore his part: for the short and the long is, our play is preferred: In any caſe let *Thisby* haue cleane linnen: and let not him that playes the Lion, paire his nailes, for they ſhall hang out for the Lions clawes. And moſt deare Actors, eate no Onions, nor Garlick; for wee are to vtter ſweete breath, and I doe not doubt but to heare them ſay, it is a ſweet Comedy. No more words: away, go away.

35

*Exeunt.*

---

*Aetlus Quintus.*

---

*Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Egeus and his Lords.*

*Hip.* 'Tis ſtrange my *Theseus*, y these louers ſpeake of.

*The.* More ſtrange then true. I neuer may beleue These anticke fables, nor these Fairy toyes, Louers and mad men haue ſuſh ſeething braines,

<sup>19</sup> ſweete FR :]. F hee F fix pence F fixpence R <sup>20</sup>;]: F hee coulde F fixe pence F <sup>21</sup>fix pence F <sup>22</sup>day, F *Pyrr.* F hanged F <sup>23</sup>Six pence F day, F *Piramus*, / <sup>24</sup>tom F <sup>25</sup>harts F <sup>26</sup>-tom F -py FR <sup>27</sup>R51 ;]: F aske FR mee R <sup>28</sup>no] not FR <sup>29</sup>tel R as] right as FR <sup>30</sup>ſweete FR <sup>31</sup>-tom F <sup>32</sup>mee. F <sup>33</sup>apparrell F <sup>34</sup>beardes F ribands F pumps F <sup>35</sup>-rie R <sup>36</sup>;]: F For, F -ferd. FR <sup>37</sup>him, F <sup>38</sup>plaies FR Lyon, pare F ;]: F <sup>38</sup>Lyon F <sup>39</sup>;]: F we FR <sup>40</sup>;]: F do FR hear F <sup>41</sup>ſweete FR wordes. F *Exeunt.*] om. FR *Aetlus Quintus.*] om. FR *Hyp.* F *Egeus and his Lords*] and Philoſtrate FR <sup>1</sup>Tis FR ſtrange, F <sup>2</sup>ſtroung F <sup>3</sup>antique F toies R ,]. F <sup>4</sup>Louers, F

Such shapping phantasies, that apprehend more  
Then coole reason euer comprehends. 5  
The Lunaticke, the Louer, and the Poet,  
Are of imagination all compact.  
One fees more diuels then vaste hell can hold;  
That is the mad man. The Louer, all as frantick,  
Sees *Helens* beauty in a brow of *Egypt*. 10  
The Poets eye in a fine frenzy rolling, doth glance  
From heauen to earth, from earth to heauen.  
And as imagination bodies forth the forms of things  
Vnknowne; the Poets pen turns them to shapes, 15  
And giues to aire nothing, a locall habitation,  
And a name. Such tricks hath strong imagination,  
That if it would but apprehend some ioy,  
It comprehends some bringer of that ioy. 20  
Or in the night, imagining some feare,  
How easie is a bush suppos'd a Beare?

*Hip.* But all the storie of the night told ouer,  
And all their minds transfigur'd so together,  
More witnesseth than fancies images, 25  
And growes to something of great constancie;  
But howsoeuer, strange, and admirable.

*Enter louers, Lysander, Demetrius, Hermia,  
and Helena.*

*The.* Heere come the louers, full of ioy and mirth:  
Ioy, gentle friends, ioy and fresh dayes  
Of loue accompany your hearts. 30

*Lys.* More then to vs, waite in your royll walkes,  
your boord, your bed.

*The.* Come now, what maskes, what dances shall  
we haue,  
To weare away this long age of three houres,  
Between our after supper, and bed-time?  
Where is our vfull manager of mirth? 35  
What Reuels are in hand? Is there no play,  
To ease the anguish of a torturing houre?  
Call *Egeus*.

*Ege.* Heere mighty *Theseus*.

6 more, F -hends. The lunatick,/The louer, and the Poet are of im-  
agination all compact./ F <sup>9</sup>-els, F vast F holde: F <sup>10</sup>-tick F  
11 *Egypt* F <sup>12</sup>eye, F eie R -zy, F <sup>13</sup>heauen. And as/Imagination F  
15 formes FR things/ F<sup>52</sup> ;]: F penne F <sup>16</sup>ayery F airy R  
18 tricks FR <sup>19</sup>R<sup>52</sup> <sup>23</sup>But, F -ry FR mindes R <sup>26</sup>-cy FR ;]: F  
27 strange and FR Louers; F louers: R -mia and F <sup>28</sup>Here FR :]. F  
29 daies FR <sup>31</sup>roiall R boorde F bedde F <sup>32</sup>now: F daunces F  
wee FR <sup>33</sup>hours, betweene/ F <sup>34</sup>-tweene R our] Or FR bed-time.  
Where is our vfull manager/Of mirth F <sup>37</sup>hower? Call *Philofstrate*./ F  
38 *Egeus*] *Philofstrate* FR *Ege*.] *Philofstrate*. FR *Here* F

*The.* Say, what abridgement haue you for this euening?

What maske? What musicke? How shall we beguile  
The lazie time, if not with some delight?

*Ege.* There is a breefe how many sports are rife:  
Make choise of which your Highnesse will see first.

*Lif.* The battell with the Centaurs to be fung  
By an Athenian Eunuch, to the Harpe.

*The.* Wee'l none of that. That haue I told my Loue  
In glory of my kinsman Hercules.

*Lif.* The riot of the tipsie Bachanals,  
Tearing the Thracian finger, in their rage?

*The.* That is an old deuice, and it was plaid  
When I from *Thebes* came last a Conqueror.

*Lif.* The thrice three Muses, mourning for the death  
of learning, late deceast in beggerie.

*The.* That is some Satire keene and critall,  
Not forting with a nuptiall ceremonie.

*Lif.* A tedious breefe Scene of yong *Piramus*,  
And his loue *Thisby*; very tragicall mirth.

*The.* Merry and tragicall? Tedious, and briefe? That  
is, hot ice, and wondrous strange snow. How shall wee 60  
finde the concord of this discord?

*Ege.* A play there is, my Lord, some ten words long,  
Which is as breefe, as I haue knowne a play;  
But by ten words, my Lord, it is too long;  
Which makes it tedious. For in all the play,  
There is not one word apt, one Player fitted. 65  
And tragicall my noble Lord it is: for *Piramus*  
Therein doth kill himselfe. Which when I faw  
Rehearst, I must confesse, made mine eyes water:  
But more merrie teares, the passion of loud laughter  
70  
Neuer shed.

*Thef.* What are they that do play it?

*Ege.* Hard handed men, that worke in Athens heere,  
Which neuer labour'd in their mindes till now;

<sup>39</sup> abridgment R <sup>40</sup> maske, FR <sup>41</sup>-zy tyme F <sup>42</sup> *Ege.*] *Philof.* FR  
breefe, FR rife ripe F ;] FR <sup>43</sup> choyce, F <sup>44</sup> *Lif.*] *The.* FR <sup>45</sup> *taures* F  
fung, F <sup>46</sup> Eunuche F ;] F <sup>47</sup> *The.*] om. FR Weele F tolde FR  
loue, FR <sup>48</sup> *Lif.*] om. FR ryot F <sup>49</sup> FR <sup>50</sup> *The.*] om. FR olde FR  
deuise F ;] F ; R plaid, FR <sup>51</sup>-rer F <sup>52</sup> *Lif.*] om. FR thrife F  
<sup>53</sup> Of FR deceast, F -ry FR ;] F <sup>54</sup> *The.*] om. FR <sup>55</sup>-ny FR  
<sup>56</sup> *Lif.*] om. FR briefe FR young FR *Pyr.* F ;] om. F <sup>57</sup>;] F R  
<sup>58</sup> *The.*] om. FR -ry, F ;] om. R briefe. That is hot Ife, / FR <sup>59</sup> Ice R  
wōdrous F <sup>60</sup> we F find F -cord/Of F <sup>61</sup> *Ege.*] *Philof.* FR long; F  
<sup>62</sup> briefe FR ;] F <sup>63</sup> But, F Lord it F ;] F <sup>64</sup> plaiier R <sup>65</sup>-call, FR  
Lord, FR ;] F *Piramus*, F <sup>67</sup>-in, F <sup>68</sup> eies R ;] R <sup>70</sup>-ry F  
,] om. FR <sup>71</sup> they, F doe F <sup>72</sup> *Ege.*] *Phil.* FR here FR <sup>73</sup> minds F  
;] F

And now haue toyled their vnbreathed memories  
With this fame play, against your nuptiall.

*The.* And we will heare it.

*Phi.* No, my noble Lord, it is not for you. I haue heard [160<sup>1</sup>]  
It ouer, and it is nothing, nothing in the world ;  
Vnleffe you can finde sport in their intents,  
Extreamely stretcht, and cond with cruell paine,  
To doe you seruice.

*Thef.* I will heare that play. For neuer any thing  
Can be amisse, when simplenesse and duty tender it.  
Goe bring them in, and take your places, Ladies.

*Hip.* I loue not to fee wretchednesse orecharged ;  
And duty in his seruice perishing.

*Thef.* Why gentle sweet, you shall fee no such thing.

*Hip.* He saies, they can doe nothing in this kinde.

*Thef.* The kinder we, to give them thanks for nothing  
Our sport shall be, to take what they mistake ;  
And what poore duty cannot doe, noble respect  
Takes it in might, not merit.

Where I haue come, great Clearkes haue purposed  
To greete me with premeditated welcomes ;  
Where I haue feene them shiuier and looke pale,  
Make periods in the midst of sentences,  
Throttle their practiz'd accent in their feares,  
And in conclusion, dumbly haue broke off,  
Not paying me a welcome. Trust me sweete,  
Out of this silence yet, I pickt a welcome :  
And in the modesty of fearefull duty,  
I read as much, as from the rattling tongue  
Of fauzy and audacious eloquence.  
Loue therefore, and tongue-tide simplicitey,  
In least, speake most, to my capacity.

*Egeus.* So please your Grace, the Prologue is addreſt.

*Duke.* Let him approach. *Flor. Trum.*

*Enter the Prologue.* *Quince.*

*Pro.* If we offend, it is with our good will.  
That you shoulde thinke, we come not to offend,  
But with good will. To shew our simple skill,  
That is the true beginning of our end.  
Consider then, we come but in despight.

<sup>74</sup>-ries, FR <sup>76</sup> wee F <sup>79</sup> entents F <sup>80</sup> Extremely R <sup>81</sup> do FR  
83 dutcy F <sup>84</sup> FR54 <sup>86</sup> dutcy, F duety R -uice, F <sup>87</sup> Why, F sweete FR  
88 fayes F do R <sup>89</sup> thanks, F -ing. FR <sup>90</sup> ;] F : R <sup>91</sup> do R  
93 Clerkes F <sup>94</sup> me, F <sup>95</sup> sion dumbly F <sup>99</sup> mee F me, F <sup>100</sup> fi-  
lence, F <sup>102</sup> rattling F <sup>104</sup> Loue, F tong-tide F <sup>106</sup> *Egeus.*] *Philof.* FR  
107 *Flor. Trum.*] om. FR *Quince.*] om. FR <sup>108</sup> wee F

We do not come, as minding to content you,  
Our true intent is. All for your delight,  
We are not heere. That you should here repent you, 115  
The Actors are at hand ; and by their shew,  
You shall know all, that you are like to know.

*Thes.* This fellow doth not stand vpon points.

*Lys.* He hath rid his Prologue, like a rough Colt : he  
knowes not the stop. A good morall my Lord. It is not 120  
enough to speake, but to speake true.

*Hip.* Indeed hee hath plaid on his Prologue, like a  
childe on a Recorder, a sound, but not in gouernment.

*Thes.* His speech was like a tangled chaine : nothing  
impaired, but all disordered. Who is next ? 125

*Tawyer with a Trumpet before them.*

*Enter Pyramus and Thisby, Wall, Moone-shine, and Lyon.*

*Prol.* Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show,  
But wonder on, till truth make all things plaine.  
This man is *Piramus*, if you would know ;  
This beauteous Lady, *Thisby* is certaine.  
This man, with lyme and rough-caft, doth present 130  
Wall, that vile wall, which did these louers funder :  
And through walls chink (poor soules) they are content  
To whisper. At the which, let no man wonder.  
This man, with Lanthorne, dog, and bush of thorne,  
Presenteth moone-shine. For if you will know, 135  
By moone-shine did these Louers thinke no scorne  
To meet at *Ninus* toombe, there, there to woe :  
This grizy beast (which Lyon hight by name) [160<sup>2</sup>]  
The trusty *Thisby*, comming first by night,  
Did scarre away, or rather did affright : 140  
And as she fled, her mantle she did fall ;  
Which Lyon vile with bloody mouth did staine.  
Anon comes *Piramus*, sweet youth and tall, .  
And findes his *Thisbies* Mantle flaine ;  
Whereat, with blade, with bloody blamefull blade, 145  
He brauely broacht his boiling bloody breast,  
And *Thisby*, tarrying in Mulberry shade,

<sup>113</sup> doe F <sup>115</sup> Wee F <sup>116</sup> here F <sup>116</sup> ;] F and, F shewe F <sup>117</sup> knowe, F  
<sup>118</sup> FR 55 <sup>119</sup> Colte F <sup>120</sup> hee FR <sup>121</sup> stoppe F <sup>121</sup> ;] F <sup>122</sup> hee F <sup>123</sup> his  
this FR <sup>123</sup> child F <sup>124</sup> found ; F <sup>124</sup> gouernement F <sup>124</sup> speach F <sup>125</sup> ;] FR  
<sup>125</sup> *Tawyer with a Trumpet before them.*] om. FR -mus, F <sup>126</sup> Wall, and  
Wall, and F <sup>126</sup> show,] show. F <sup>127</sup> But, F <sup>127</sup> truthe F <sup>128</sup> Pyr. F  
knowe : F <sup>129</sup> -tious FR <sup>130</sup> Lady *Thisby* F <sup>130</sup> ,] om. R <sup>131</sup> -Jom. FR  
<sup>132</sup> wals chinke FR <sup>133</sup> ,] F <sup>134</sup> poore FR <sup>134</sup> lanterne, dogge F <sup>137</sup> meete FR  
tombe F <sup>138</sup> grizy FR <sup>139</sup> *Thisby* F <sup>141</sup> ;] F <sup>142</sup> Lyon R <sup>143</sup> Pyr. F  
sweete FR <sup>144</sup> youth, F <sup>144</sup> his] his trusty FR <sup>145</sup> -byes F <sup>145</sup> ;] F <sup>146</sup> boyl- F  
bloody FR <sup>147</sup> ,] F <sup>147</sup> tary- F

His dagger drew, and died. For all the rest,  
Let *Lyon*, *Moone-shine*, *Wall*, and *Louers* twaine,  
At large discoufe, while here they doe remaine.

150

*Exit all but Wall.*

*Thef.* I wonder if the Lion be to speake.

*Deme.* No wonder, my Lord: one Lion may, when  
many Asses doe.

*Exit Lyon, Thisbie, and Moone-shine.*

*Wall.* In this fame Interlude, it doth befall,  
That I, one *Snowt* (by name) present a wall: 155  
And such a wall, as I vvould haue you thinke,  
That had in it a crannied hole or chinke:  
Through which the *Louers*, *Piramus* and *Thisbie*  
Did whisper often, very secretly.  
This loame, this rough-caft, and this stone doth shew, 160  
That I am that fame Wall; the truth is so.  
And this the cranny is, right and sinister,  
Through which the fearefull *Louers* are to whisper.

*Thef.* Would you desire Lime and Haire to speake  
better? 165

*Deme.* It is the vvittiest partition, that euer I heard  
discoufe, my Lord.

*Thef.* *Piramus* drawes neere the Wall, silence.

*Enter Pyramus.*

*Pir.* O grim lookt night, ô night with hue so blacke,  
O night, which euer art, when day is not: 170  
O night, ô night, alacke, alacke, alacke,  
I feare my *Thisbies* promise is forgot.  
And thou ô vvall, thou sweet and louely vvall,  
That stands betweene her fathers ground and mine,  
Thou vvall, ô vvall, ô sweet and louely vvall, 175  
Shew me thy chinke, to blinke through vvith mine eine.  
Thankes courteous vvall. *Ioue* shield thee vvell for this.  
But vvhat see I? No *Thisbie* doe I see.  
O vvicked vvall, through vvhom I fee no blisse,  
Curst be thy stones for thus deceiuing mee. 180

*Thef.* The vvall me - thinkes being sensible, should  
curfe againe.

<sup>148</sup> drewe F dyed F <sup>150</sup> do R *Exit all but Wall.*] om. FR <sup>151</sup> FR 56  
-der, F *Lyon* FR <sup>152</sup> .] F <sup>153</sup> do R *Thyfby* F <sup>154</sup> R *Moone-*  
*shine* R <sup>154</sup> enter- F *-lude*,] *-lude* FR <sup>155</sup> *Snowt*] *Flute* FR <sup>156</sup> thinke,]  
thinke F <sup>157</sup> craned F <sup>158</sup> *Piramus*, F <sup>159</sup> R <sup>160</sup> lome FR <sup>161</sup> om. FR  
showe, F show. R <sup>161</sup> .] F <sup>162</sup> cranie F <sup>164</sup> speake R <sup>165</sup> *Pir.* R  
neare F .] F *Enter Pyramus.*] om. FR <sup>169</sup> night, with F <sup>172</sup> -byes F  
<sup>173</sup> thou sweet and] ô sweete, ô FR <sup>174</sup> standf F <sup>175</sup> sweete FR <sup>176</sup> Showe  
mee F blink FR through, F <sup>177</sup> Thanks R cur- F well, F <sup>178</sup> -by FR  
do R <sup>179</sup> whome F <sup>180</sup> stones, FR me R <sup>181</sup> mee thinkes, F me-thinks R

*Pir.* No in truth sir, he should not. *Deceiuing me,*  
Is *Thisbies* cue ; she is to enter, and I am to spy  
Her through the vwall. You shall see it vwill fall. 185

*Enter Thisbie.*

Pat as I told you ; yonder she comes.

*This.* O vwall, full often hast thou heard my mones,  
For parting my faire *Piramus*, and me.  
My cherry lips haue often kist thy stones ;  
Thy stones vwith Lime and Haire knit vp in thee. 190

*Pyra.* I see a voyce ; now vviil I to the chinke,  
To spy and I can heare my *Thisbies* face. *Thisbie?*

*This.* My Loue thou art, my Loue I thinke.

*Pir.* Thinke vwhat thou vwillt, I am thy Louers grace,  
And like *Limander* am I trusty still. 195

*This.* And like *Helen* till the Fates me kill.

*Pir.* Not *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, was so true.

*This.* As *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, I to you.

*Pir.* O kiffe me through the hole of this vile wall. [163<sup>1</sup>]

*This.* I kiffe the wals hole, not your lips at all. 200

*Pir.* Wilt thou at *Ninnies* tombe meete me straight  
way ?

*This.* Tide life, tide death, I come without delay.

*Wall.* Thus haue I *Wall*, my part discharged fo ;  
And being done, thus *Wall* away doth go. *Exit Clow.*

*Du.* Now is the morall downe betweene the two 205  
Neighbors.

*Dem.* No remedie my Lord, when Wals are so wil-  
full, to heare without vvarning.

*Dut.* This is the filliest stiffe that ere I heard.

*Du.* The best in this kind are but shadowes, and the 210  
worst are no worse, if imagination amend them.

*Dut.* It must be your imagination then, & not theirs.

*Duk.* If wee imagine no worse of them then they of  
themselfes, they may passe for excellent men. Here com  
two noble beasts, in a man and a Lion. 215

*Enter Lyon and Moone-shine.*

*Lyon.* You Ladies, you (whose gentle harts do feare

<sup>183</sup> No, F mee is / *Thisbyes* F <sup>184</sup> ;] F enter] enter now FR <sup>185</sup> fall.]  
fall FR *Enter Thisbie.*] (*follows line 186*) FR -by F <sup>186</sup> FR57 ;] F  
<sup>188</sup> *Pyr.* F mee F <sup>190</sup> stones, F hayire F vp in thee] now againe FR  
<sup>191</sup> voice FR ;] F <sup>192</sup> -*byes* F <sup>193</sup> -by FR <sup>194</sup> Grace : F <sup>195</sup> And, F  
-der, FR <sup>196</sup> And] And I, F And I R *Helen*, FR <sup>197</sup> -alus, F <sup>199</sup> mee, F  
vilde F <sup>200</sup> walles F ;] F <sup>201</sup> thou, F tombe, F toomb R straight-  
way R <sup>202</sup> tyde death F <sup>203</sup> I, F <sup>204</sup> And, F goe FR *Exit Clow.*] om. FR  
<sup>205</sup> moral downe] Moon vsed FR between F <sup>207</sup> -dy, FR  
<sup>210</sup> stiffe, F ere] euer F <sup>210</sup> best, F kinde, F kinde R ;] F <sup>212</sup> -tion, F  
,] F <sup>213</sup> we F them, F <sup>214</sup> Heere R come FR <sup>215</sup> Lyon FR  
Lyon, F <sup>216</sup> hearts FR

The smalleſt monſtrous moufe that creepes on floore)  
May now perchance, both quake and tremble heere,  
When Lion rough in wildeft rage doth roare.

Then know that I, one *Snug* the Ioyner am 220  
A Lion fell, nor elſe no Lions dam :  
For if I ſhould as Lion come in ſtrife  
Into this place, 'twere pittie of my life.

*Du.* A verie gentle beaſt, and of a good conſcience.

*Dem.* The verie beſt at a beaſt, my Lord, þere I faw. 225  
*Lyf.* This Lion is a verie Fox for his valor.

*Du.* True, and a Goose for his diſcretiōn.

*Dem.* Not ſo my Lord: for his valor cannot carrie  
his diſcretiōn, and the Fox carries the Goose.

*Du.* His diſcretiōn I am ſure cannot carrie his valor: 230  
for the Goose carries not the Fox. It is well; leauē it to  
his diſcretiōn, and let vs hearken to the Moone.

*Moon.* This Lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-  
ſent.

*De.* He ſhould haue worne the hornes on his head.

*Du.* Hee is no crescent, and his hornes are inuiſible, 235  
within the circumfeſſure.

*Moon.* This lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-  
ſent: My ſelfe, the man i'th Moone doth feeme to be.

*Du.* This is the greateſt error of all the reſt; the man  
ſhould be put into the Lanthorne. How is it elſe the man 240  
i'th Moone?

*Dem.* He dares not come there for the candle.  
For you ſee, it is already in ſnuffe.

*Dut.* I am vvearie of this Moone; vwould he would  
change. 245

*Du.* It appeares by his ſmal light of diſcretiōn, that  
he is in the wane: but yet in courteſie, in all reaſon, vve  
muſt ſtay the time.

*Lyf.* Proceed Moone.

*Moon.* All that I haue to fay, is to tell you, that the 250  
Lanthorne is the Moone; I, the man in the Moone; this  
thorne buſh, my thorne buſh; and this dog, my dog.

217 moufe, F 218 now, F here F 219 Lyon rough, FR rage, F  
220 one] as FR 221 FR58 Lyon FR Lyons damme FR ;, F ;, R  
222 For, F ſhould, FR Lyon, F Lyon R ſtrife, FR 223 t'were R  
-ty FR of] on FR 224 very FR 225 very FR 226 Lyon FR very FR  
fox, F -our FR 227,] ; F 228,] ;, FR -our FR -ry FR 229,] ;, F ; R  
230 -tion, F ſure, F -ry FR -our FR .] ; FR 231,] ;, F 232 hearken]  
liftin F 234 hornes, F 235 He FR 237 preſent, / My FR 238 i'th F  
i'th R Moone, F doth] doe F do R 239 -our F 240 elſe FR 241 i'th F  
242 there, F candle. For/you F 244 a weary R ;, F hee  
woule F 246 appeares, F ſmall FR 247 hee FR cur- FR wee F  
249 -ceede, F 251 ;, F I the F in the] i'th F ;, F 252,] om. F ;, FR  
dogge my dogge F

*Dem.* Why all these should be in the Lanthorne: for they are in the Moone. But silence, heere comes *Thisby*.

*Enter Thisby.*

*This.* This is old *Ninnies* tombe: where is my loue? 255

*Lyon.* Oh.

*The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.*

*Dem.* Well roar'd Lion.

*Du.* Well run *Thisby*.

[163<sup>2</sup>]

*Dut.* Well shone Moone.

Truly the Moone shines with a good grace.

260

*Du.* Wel mouz'd Lion.

*Dem.* And then came *Piramus*.

*Lys.* And so the Lion vanisht.

*Enter Piramus.*

*Pyr.* Sweet Moone, I thank thee for thy funny beames, I thanke thee Moone, for shining now so bright: 265

For by thy gracious, golden, glittering beames, I trusst to taste of truest *Thisbys* fight.

But stay: O spight! but marke, poore Knight,

What dreadful dole is heere? 270

Eyes do you fee! How can it be!

O dainty Ducke: O Deere!

Thy mantle good; what staind with blood!

275

Approch you Furies fell:

O Fates! come, come: Cut thred and thrum,

Quaile, crush, conclude, and quell.

*Du.* This passion, and the death of a deare friend, 280 Would go neere to make a man looke fad.

*Dut.* Befrew my heart, but I pittie the man.

*Pir.* O wherefore Nature, didst thou Lions frame?

Since Lion vilde hath heere deflour'd my deere:

Which is: no, no, which was the fairest Dame 285

That liu'd, that lou'd, that lik'd, that look'd with cheere.

Come teares, confound: Out sword, and wound

<sup>253</sup> Why? F bee F <sup>254</sup> they] all these F :; F here F <sup>255</sup> ould F  
 Ninies FR tumbe. F toomb: R wher's R loue? *Lyon.* Oh. / FR  
<sup>256</sup> *Jom.* R *The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.* *Jom.* FR <sup>257</sup> FR59 roar'd, F  
 roar'd R Lyon FR <sup>258</sup> runne, F runne R -bie R <sup>259</sup> Well . . . shines, / FR  
 shooone R <sup>260</sup> True- R -ly, F shines, F <sup>261</sup> Well FR mouz'd, F  
 Lyon FR <sup>262</sup> *Pyr.* F <sup>263</sup> Lyon FR *Pyr.* F <sup>264</sup> Sweete FR thanke  
 thee, F beams. F <sup>265</sup> thee, F :; FR <sup>266</sup> gratious F <sup>267</sup> taste] take FR  
 -by F -bie R <sup>270</sup> full FR here FR <sup>272</sup> bee F <sup>273</sup> duck F :; FR  
 deare FR <sup>274</sup> :; FR <sup>275</sup> what, F <sup>276</sup> Approach ye FR :; FR  
<sup>277</sup> *Jom.* FR :; FR <sup>278</sup> thread and thrumme F <sup>280</sup> friend would/goe FR  
<sup>282</sup> Befrewre F -ty FR <sup>283</sup> O, wherefore, F didst FR Lyons FR  
<sup>284</sup> Lyon FR here F :; F ; R <sup>285</sup> :; FR no, no: F <sup>286</sup> lik't FR  
 look't FR <sup>287</sup> *Jom.* R :; FR <sup>288</sup> *Jom.* R

The pap of *Piramus*:

I, that left pap, where heart doth hop ; 290

Thus dye I, thus, thus.

Now am I dead, now am I fled, my soule is in the sky, 295

Tongue lose thy light, Moone take thy flight,

Now dye, dye, dye, dye, dye.

*Dem.* No Die, but an ace for him ; for he is but one.

*Lif.* Leffe then an ace man. For he is dead, he is no- 300  
thing.

*Du.* With the helpe of a Surgeon, he might yet recon-  
uer, and proue an Affe.

*Dut.* How chance Moone-shine is gone before ?

*Thisby* comes backe, and findes her Louer.

305

*Enter Thisby.*

*Duke.* She wil finde him by starre-light.

Heere she comes, and her passion ends the play.

*Dut.* Me thinkes shee shoulde not vse a long one for  
such a *Piramus* : I hope she will be breefe.

*Dem.* A Moth wil turne the ballance, which *Piramus* 310  
which *Thisby* is the better. (eyes.

*Lys.* She hath spyed him already, with those sweete

*Dem.* And thus shee meanes, *videlicet*.

315

*This.* Asleepe my Loue ? What, dead my Doue ?

O *Piramus* arise :

Speake, Speake. Quite dumbe ? Dead, dead ? A tombe  
Must couer thy sweete eyes.

These Lilly Lips, this cherry nose,

320

These yellow Cowslip cheekees

Are gone, are gone : Louers make mone :

His eyes were greene as Leekes.

325

O sisters three, come, come to mee,

With hands as pale as Milke,

Lay them in gore, since you haue shone

330

With sheeres, his thred of filke.

Tongue not a word : Come trusty fword :

Come blade, my breft imbrue :

289 pappe F *Pyr*-FR 290 pappe F 291 hoppe. F 292 dy F die R  
295 soule, R ; J. F 296 loose F 298 dy, dy, dy, dy, dy. F 299 ; J. F 300 FR 60  
ace, F 303 ; Jom, R and yet proue F 314 before ? Thisby/comes F  
306 Enter Thisby.] om. FR 306 Shee . . . shee / F She . . . comes, / R  
will FR him, F star-R 307 Here FR 308 Me-thinkes R -kes, F the FR  
one, F 310 Pyr- F hope, F briefe FR 310 will FR , ; J. F *Pyr*-F  
-muis, FR 311 -bie R better.] better : he (hee R) for a man ; (, R) God  
warnd us : (, R) she, (, Jom, R) for a woman ; (, R) God bleffe vs. FR  
312 spied FR eies R 313 *videlicet* ; F 314 A sleepe F 316 *Pyramus*, F  
; J, FR 318 tombe F toombe R 319 sweete FR eies R 320 lippes F  
322 -lippe F 323 gon, are gon F ; J, R 325 greene, F 327 come, to F  
me R 331 threede F 332 Tongue, F word, R 333 ; J, FR 334 breast  
imbrew FR

And farewell friends, thus *Thisbie* ends ; 335 [162<sup>1</sup>]  
Adieu, adieu, adieu.

*Duk.* Moon-shine & Lion are left to burie the dead.

*Deme.* I, and Wall too.

*Bot.* No, I affuse you, the wall is downe, that parted 340  
their Fathers. Will it please you to see the Epilogue, or  
to heare a Bergomask dance, betweene two of our com-  
pany?

*Duk.* No Epilogue, I pray you ; for your play needs  
no excuse. Neuer excuse ; for when the plaiers are all 345  
dead, there need none to be blamed. Marry, if hee that  
writ it had plaid *Piramus*, and hung himselfe in *Thisbies*  
garter, it would haue beene a fine Tragedy : and so it is  
truely, and very notably discharg'd. But come, your  
Burgomask ; let your Epilogue alone. 350

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelue.

Louers to bed, 'tis almost Fairy time.

I feare we shall out-sleepe the comming morne,  
As much as we this night haue ouer-watcht.

This paipable grosse play hath well beguil'd 355  
The heauy gate of night. Sweet friends to bed.

A fortnight hold we this folemnity.

In nightly Reuels ; and new iollitie.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Pucke.*

*Puck* Now the hungry Lyons rores, 360  
And the Wolfe beholds the Moone :

Whileft the heauy ploughman snores,  
All with weary taske fore-done.

Now the wasted brands doe glow,  
Whilft the scritch-owle, scritching loud,

Puts the wretch that lies in woe, 365  
In remembrance of a shrowd.

Now it is the time of night,

That the graues, all gaping wide,  
Euery one lets forth his fpright,

In the Church-way paths to glide. 370  
And we Fairies, that do runne,  
By the triple *Heacates* teame,

335 farewell F ,]: F 336 *Thyby* ends : F 338 *Moone-* FR Lyon FR  
bury FR to F 340 *Bot.] Lyon.* FR you the R 341 you, F 342 -maske  
daunce, between F 344 FR61 ,]: F 345 ,]: F players FR 346 deade F  
neede F Mary F he R 347 it, F played F Pyr. F hangd F hang'd R  
349 come your F 350 ,]: F 351 tolde FR 352 tis FR 353 -Jom. F 354 wee F  
-Jom. F 355 -wie F Sweete friends, F 357 holde F -tie F ,]: FR  
358 ,]: FR -ty FR 359 roares. F 360 ,]: FR 361 Whilft FR -wie F  
362 foredoone F 363 do R glowe F 364 Whilft FR scrich- F scrich-  
ing lowd F 365 wretch, F lyes F 366 shrowde F 370 -Jom. FR 371 wee F  
doe F runnne R

From the prefence of the Sunne,  
Following darkenesse like a dreame,  
Now are frolickie ; not a Mouse  
Shall disturbe this hallowed houfe.  
I am fent with broome before,  
To sweep the dust behinde the doore.

375

*Enter King and Queene of Fairies, with their traine.*

*Ob.* Through the house giue glimmering light,  
By the dead and drowsie fier, 380 [162<sup>2</sup>]  
Euerie Elfe and Fairie spright,  
Hop as light as bird from brier,  
And this Ditty after me, sing and dance it trippingleie.

*Tita.* First rehearfe this song by roate,  
To each word a warbling note.  
Hand in hand, with Fairie grace,  
Will we sing and blesse this place.

385

*The Song.*

Now vntill the breake of day,  
Through this houfe each Fairy stray. 390  
To the best Bride-bed will we,  
Which by vs shall blesſed be :  
And the iffue there create,  
Euer shall be fortunate :  
So shall all the couples three, 395  
Euer true in louing be :  
And the blots of Natures hand,  
Shall not in their iffue stand.  
Neuer mole, harelip, nor scarre,  
Nor marke prodigious, such as are 400  
Despised in Natiuitie,  
Shall vpon their children be.  
With this field dew consecrate,  
Ecery Fairy take his gate,  
And each feuerall chamber blesſe, 405  
Through this Pallace with sweete peace,  
Euer shall in safety ref<sup>t</sup>,  
And the owner of it blesſt.  
Trip away, make no stay ;  
Meet me all by breake of day. 410

374 darkenesse R 375 -lick : F 377 fent, F broome, F 378 FR62  
sweepe FR duſt, F dore F *their*] all their FR 381 Eueri FR Fairy FR  
382 birde F 383 -tie F mee F 384 Sing, F daunce F -ly FR 385 this]  
your F rote F 387 -ry FR grace ; R 388 *The Song.*] om. FR 389 Now]  
*Ob.* Now FR. Now, F 390 houſe, FR 391 bride bed F wee : F 392 iffue, F  
395 ,]om. F 397 ,]om. F 399 hare-lippe F hare-lip R 401 -ty R 403 deaw F  
406 palace, FR sweete FR 409 Trippe F ,]: F 410 Meete FR  
all, FR day.] day. *Exeunt.* FR

*Robin.* If we shadowes haue offended,  
 Thinke but this (and all is mended)  
 That you haue but flumbred heere,  
 While these visions did appeare.  
 And this weake and idle theame,  
 No more yeelding but a dreame,  
 Centles, doe not reprehend.  
 If you pardon, we will mend.  
 And as I am an honest *Pucke*,  
 If we haue vnearned lucke,  
 Now to scape the Serpents tongue,  
 We will make amends ere long :  
 Elfe the *Pucke* a lyar call.  
 So good night vnto you all.  
 Giue me your hands, if we be friends,  
 And *Robin* shall restore amends.

415

420

425

FINIS.

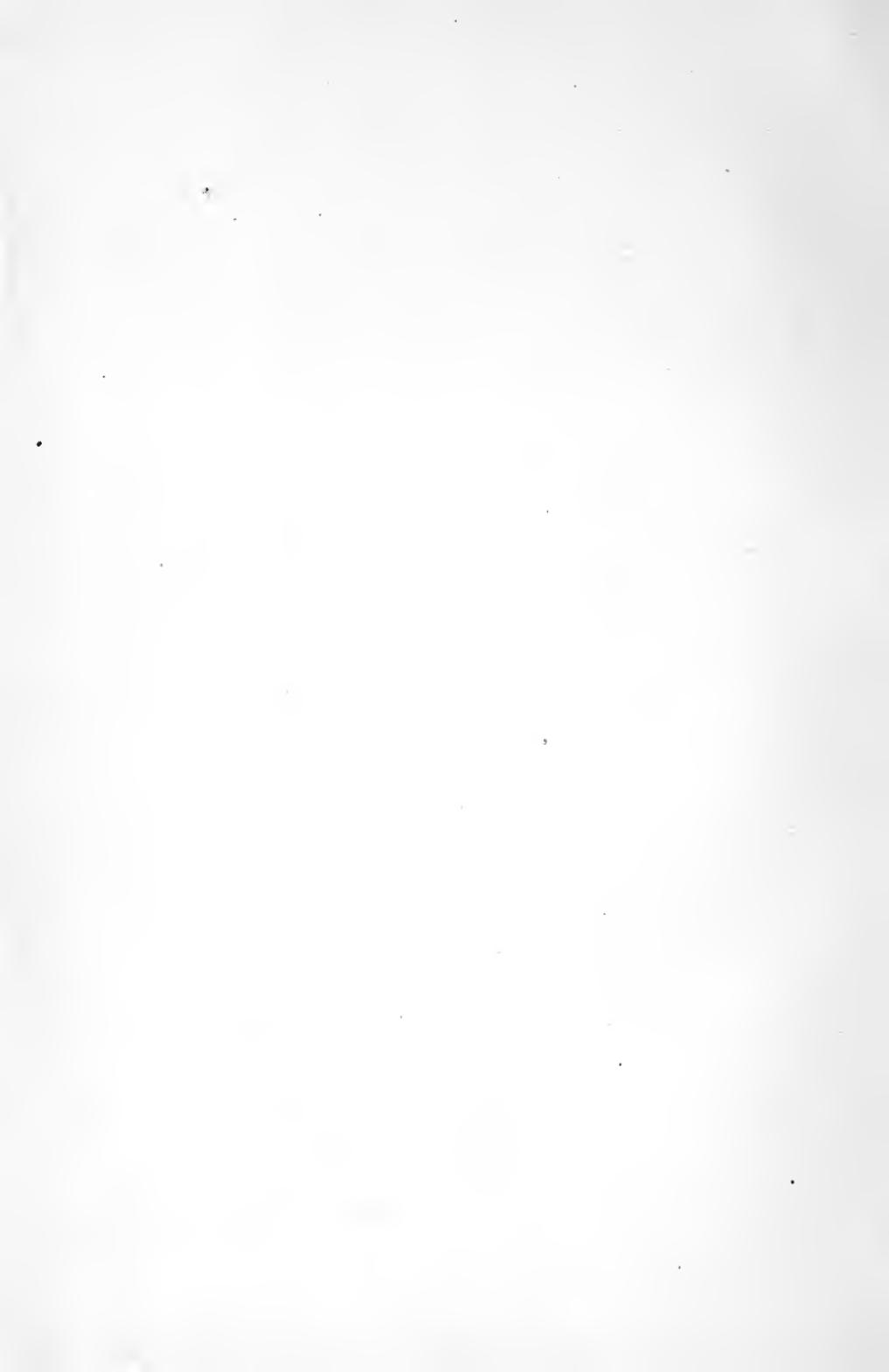
<sup>413</sup> FR63 here F <sup>414</sup> theſe] this R <sup>416</sup> yield- F <sup>417</sup> Gentles FR  
 do R <sup>418</sup> wee F <sup>419</sup> And, F <sup>420</sup> luck F <sup>422</sup> amends, F  
<sup>423</sup> Elfe, F <sup>424</sup> *Puck* a lyer F <sup>424</sup> So, F <sup>425</sup> friends : F









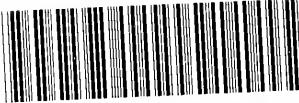








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